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THE TIMES

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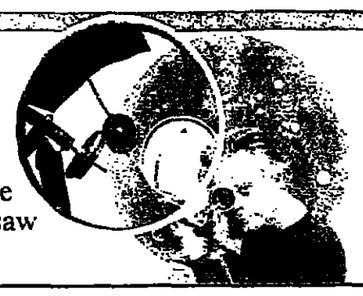
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New light on what the wise men saw
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Twelve days of Christmas
Win a Sony PlayStation
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Commons statement today

Bottomley set to sack lottery regulator

BY JON ASHWORTH AND ARTHUR LEATHLEY

VIRGINIA BOTTOMLEY is expected to end Peter Davis's brief career as the National Lottery regulator today after his admission of links with Camelot's American partner.

The National Heritage Secretary will give Mr Davis a last-minute chance to save his job in an interview with her most senior official, but sources close to Mrs Bottomley suggested last night that the controversy surrounding Mr Davis has become so intense that she will have no option but to find a successor. She will make a Commons announcement this afternoon.

Mr Davis's position has become increasingly vulnerable since he admitted accepting flights and hospitality from GTech, an American firm with a stake in the lottery. He will also be questioned today on why Camelot is being allowed to delay paying up to £100 million in prize money, boosting its profits through extra interest.

Mr Davis remains adamant that he will not resign. He will explain to Hayden Phillips, the permanent secretary, why he used a GTech corporate jet during a tour of American lotteries in October 1994 and clarify his relationship with Carl Menges, a Wall Street merchant banker and GTech director, with whom he stayed in America.

Mr Davis has been under pressure since last week when he admitted to MPs that he had used the GTech jet, understood to be a Cessna Citation III. He also made four flights in a GTech helicopter and spent a weekend at Mr Menges's Long Island home.

But he said last night: "All the decisions I have made have been made carefully, after proper consultation, and in the interests of the National Lottery. I have declared all my social contacts connected with the eight applicants for the licence, and I declared, and continue to update, all my financial interests. I am confident that I have acted properly, and have no reason to resign."

Nevertheless, some Whitehall officials suggested that he can save his job only by offering a "stupendous defence" today. They say a Civil Servant would be dismissed for admitting similar links to businesses and that he should be judged in the same way.

Robert Sheldon, chairman of the Commons Public Accounts Committee, said: "I think it will be very difficult for him to justify the way he has acted." Jack Cunningham, the Shadow National Heritage Secretary, said: "It is increasingly clear that Mr Davis is, at the very least, guilty of exceedingly poor judgment. The latest revelations appear to make his position increasingly untenable."

Much of the questioning by Mr Phillips will focus on Mr Davis's relationship with Mr Menges, who is vice-chairman of Donaldson, Lufkin & Jenrette, a Wall Street securities house with a key financial interest in GTech. Mr Menges, who spent time in London in the 1970s, says they have been close friends for many years. Mr Davis, however, insists that he hardly knows Mr Menges, although their wives have kept up their friendship since going to ante-natal classes together in 1975.

In January 1994, Mr Menges wrote to Mr Davis congratulating him on his appointment, but Mr Phillips will be shown Mr Davis's reply asking him not to discuss lottery issues "in the interests of regulatory probity".

Mr Davis went to extreme measures to protect his integrity during bidding for the lottery. He logged every telephone call to his office, and kept a careful record of meetings, conscious of the need to appear beyond reproach.

Today, however, the row is likely to spread beyond Mr Davis's links with GTech to why he is allowing Camelot to hold prize money back.

Jeremy Hanley, the former Tory party chairman, is to take up claims that Camelot will make millions of pounds of extra profit because of a loophole in the licence agreement reached with Mr Davis.

Mr Davis has admitted that £17 million of prize money was held back by Camelot in the first five months of the lottery and not paid out until the summer. Although this is allowed under the rules, Mr Davis has astonished some MPs by writing that "any interest in respect of this sum was retained by Camelot, since it was Camelot's money". Insiders at Oflot say the underpayment is likely to reach £100 million this year.

Threat to lottery, page 6



Paul Brighton, who is critically ill in hospital, with his wife Susan and sons Gareth, left, and Christopher

Father attacked while chasing vandals

BY RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

A FATHER of two was critically ill in hospital last night after being attacked by youths who had thrown a beer can through a window of his home.

Paul Brighton, 41, underwent an emergency operation at Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, to remove pieces of skull from his brain. He was conscious yesterday, but had difficulty speaking. Denis Richardson, his father-in-law, said last night: "We don't know whether he will regain his speech".

Mr Brighton's skull was crushed by youths who attacked him with bricks and cans after knocking him to the ground near his home at Orton Waterville, in Cambridgeshire.

Mr Brighton, his wife, Susan, and their sons Gareth, 11, and Christopher, 13, were watching television when they heard a window break in a bathroom upstairs. Mr Brighton immediately dashed out of the house to find the culprits.

Mrs Brighton said: "The boys had just been in the bath and Paul was furious. Paul usually works away from home in the week and his weekends at home with the children are precious to him.

"He is a proud family man. He did not stop to think. He was so shocked that the children could have been hurt."

Mr Brighton, a contracts manager with the Mowlem construction company, was 300 yards from home when he was attacked by the youths.

Mrs Brighton telephoned the police and when her husband did not return, went to look for him. "I went out looking for them and saw Paul being taken into an ambulance," she said. "Apparently, he had been unconscious but had come round. He was trying to speak but his words were all over the place."

Orton Waterville is a small village with thatched cottages, surrounded by woods and paths leading to housing corporation estates. The attack took place in The Orchards, a development of about 20 detached houses near the heart of the village.

In recent months there have been a spate of incidents caused by gangs of youths who hang around the village.

The Rev Geoffrey Goswell, the local vicar, said: "This is the last place you would expect to have this kind of attack. But things have got really bad during the past two years."

Five youths were last night being questioned by police.

Communist comeback on the cards in Russia

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

FOR the first time since they were disbanded and ousted from power four years ago, Russia's restyled Communists appeared headed for a political comeback in parliamentary elections yesterday.

As tens of millions of Russians spanning 11 time zones turned out for the country's second post-Soviet parliamentary polls, the Communists and their leftist allies were set to register a comfortable lead in a field of 43 parties.

Preliminary results from the Russian Far East, nine hours ahead of Moscow, were expected to show a protest vote against the reformist policies of President Yeltsin's Government and in favour of a return to Soviet-style communism. In the last election in 1993 the Communists received just more than 12 per cent of the vote nationwide, a result they hoped to double last night.

The Communists were also likely to do well in rural areas and depressed industrial regions, although centrist and liberal parties are expected to narrow the lead with strong showings in cities such as Moscow and St Petersburg. The high voter turnout was expected to benefit the pro-reform parties.

President Yeltsin made it clear yesterday, after casting his ballot outside Moscow, that he would press on with economic reforms regardless of the outcome of the election to the 450-seat Duma, the lower house of parliament.

"No circumstances could force me to abandon the course of reforms I have chosen. There is no doubt about that," the Russian leader said. He looked fit and healthy despite his continued convalescence from a heart ailment six weeks ago.

Election analysis, page 11
Leading article, page 17

PCs forced out over prank

Three policemen who handcuffed a woman officer during "horseplay" at a west London station have been forced to resign.

The Metropolitan Police constables, all in their thirties and each with more than 15 years' experience, were found guilty of discreditable conduct at a disciplinary hearing. Scotland Yard confirmed. The WPC screamed when she was handcuffed and her protests were heard by a woman colleague.....Page 3

Blues and brains are compatible

Oxbridge Blues are outperforming the average student academically, exploding an enduring myth.

Analysis of Oxford degree results shows the hockey team with a clutch of firsts and all but one of the cricketers graduating this summer gaining at least an upper-second.....Page 3

British referendum prospects rise after approval for euro

BY PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

A REFERENDUM in Britain on membership of a single European currency looked an increasingly likely prospect last night as politicians came to terms with the decisions of the Madrid summit to confirm a January 1999 starting-date for the euro.

John Major gave the clearest indication after the two-day gathering that he has thought through a referendum plan and senior Conservative and Labour figures agreed that it was almost inevitable that each party would go into the next election promising one should a Labour or Tory Cabinet decide to join.

The British decision is now expected to be made in the early months of 1998, possibly less than a year into the next Parliament. "The only question is which party will be the first to make the pledge," a senior minister said last night. With the Government facing the risk of a Commons defeat on Europe tomorrow Mr Major also stepped up his warnings against moving too hastily on monetary union.

He told Sky TV that the turmoil that surrounded the collapse of the exchange-rate mechanism (ERM) would be as nothing compared with what would happen if a single currency started and then failed. He ruled out any British participation in a new ERM outside the single currency. "That is for the birds."

The Euro-sceptics will have an opportunity tomorrow to register their disapproval over Madrid by rebelling in a Commons vote on the fisheries policy. Mr Major urged the would-be dissidents to back off and Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, said they risked "shooting themselves in the foot". The Prime Minister has moved towards a referendum in what appears to be a trade-off with the Tory Right which had hoped he would agree to a manifesto pledge ruling out a single currency for the lifetime of the next Parliament. To their dismay Mr Major and Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, finally dashed any chance of such pledge at Madrid.

Mr Major declared: "We are not in the business of ruling out what might happen in the next Parliament."

The likelihood of Labour promising a referendum was reiterated yesterday by Robin Cook, the Shadow Foreign Secretary. He said that the British people would be consulted if a Labour Cabinet decided to go into a single currency.

Kohl's hold, page 10
Peter Riddell, page 16

Old enemies meet in European football

BY JOHN GOODBODY, SPORTS NEWS CORRESPONDENT

ENGLAND'S historic rivalry with Scotland will be revived when the two teams meet in the first stage of the European football championship next summer.

It will be the first clash between the old enemies, who staged the world's first international match in 1870, since their annual friendly was abandoned in 1989 because of hooliganism. The match, on June 15, is expected to create a security headache.

There was a roar of excitement at the International Convention Centre in Birmingham yesterday when the two countries were drawn in the same group. They have never met in the final stages of an important international competition.

Terry Venables, the England coach, said the fixture had been "sorely missed" by supporters. Both he and Craig Brown, the Scottish manager, had wanted to resume the fixture for some time, but the Scottish authorities had not been enthusiastic.

The Football Association will have to decide what to do about tickets for the game, for which Scotland has been allocated only 7,000 places. The championship organisers will discuss how to increase Scotland's allocation at Wembley, which has a capacity of 80,000. The other teams in the group are Switzerland and Holland, who won in 1988.

UEFA EURO 96

Full details.....Page 21
Players to watch ..... Page 27

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Thomas stays at top of the class in baby name game

BY IAN MEIKLE AND JOE JOSEPH

WHILE *Times* readers will happily christen this year's daughter Hannah and next year's, Alice or Lucy, their taste in boys' names is as constant as the menu in a Pall Mall gentleman's club, with Thomas leading the pack.

A survey of first names spotted most frequently over the past year in birth announcements in *The Times* shows that Charlotte, dawdling in tenth place in 1994, has become the most popular girls' name. Isabella, Elizabeth and Hannah have also vaulted into the frame.

The latest findings suggest that Thomas, at the top since 1992, may soon become to Britain what Bruce was to Australia. Thomas, James, William and Alexander — the unchanged top four in the boys' league — are the offspring of parents who think Establishment doors will always creak shut in the face of someone christened Ice-T or Meatloaf.

Parents are less hidebound when naming daughters. Charlotte's victory was a surprise since she was lagging well behind last year before putting on a spurt that forced 1994's favourites, the Sophies, into second place.

Are *Times* readers' choices representative? The *Guinness Book of Names* calculates that 1995's most popular names were Daniel and Rebecca: in the *Times* tally, Daniel managed only joint twenty-first, and Rebecca came in eleventh. Leslie Dunkling, its author, thinks that "names that appear top in *The Times* often appear high up on the national lists a few years later because of aspirational naming. Charlotte is an example."

The 1995 crop of more unusual names, some hinting at acting careers, includes Tippi, for girls. As for the boy whose parents named him "Alaric the Winalot" in January, he's probably already got a Hollywood agent.

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RAC
IT SAYS DRIVE ARRIVE

THIS WEEK IN THE TIMES

TUESDAY

WIN A HEALTH WEEKEND

Five weekends for two at a health farm to be won

PLUS: Win 11 cases of Moët & Chandon

WEDNESDAY



ESSENTIAL FASHION

How to wear see-through with style

PLUS: Four Sony camcorders to be won

THURSDAY

FILMS OF THE WEEK

The Indian in the Cupboard, and other Christmas films

PLUS: Three mountain bikes to be won



FRIDAY



FREE SHOPPING FOR A YEAR

Win 12 months' worth of supermarket shopping

PLUS:

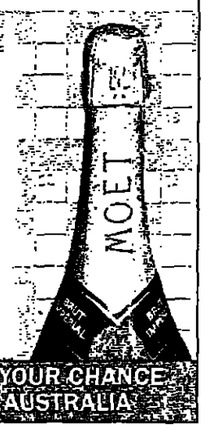
Two Sony Widescreen televisions to be won

SATURDAY

THE CHAMPAGNE CROSSWORD

Win a Methuselah of Moët & Chandon with the jumbo crossword, in **Weekend**

PLUS: The Christmas Quiz in the **Magazine**, **1015** for young Times readers, **Car 95** and **Vision**, the 7-day guide to Christmas TV and radio



EVERY DAY THIS WEEK YOUR CHANCE TO WIN HOLIDAYS TO AUSTRALIA

Major gambles on study of 'ins and outs'

Sceptics see Clarke as villain of 'euro' piece

BY PHILIP WEBSTER AND GEORGE BROCK

JOHN MAJOR secured about as much from the Madrid summit as he could have hoped. But his achievements have not prevented the Euro-sceptics going on the warpath again. Kenneth Clarke, whose enthusiasm for Europe was again on show in the Spanish capital, is the target of their anger. He is being blamed for killing off their hopes of a pledge in the next Tory manifesto ruling out a single currency for the next five years.

Mr Major was never going to stop the summit endorsing the timetable that is now expected to see a handful of member states going out on their own with a single currency in 1999. He had harboured a slight hope that they would not name the new unit. There was a chance that Jacques Chirac would block the German campaign for the "euro", but in the end Helmut Kohl got his way.

Mr Major has instead gambled all on a study that the summit ordered the Italian presidency to undertake into the implications of the "ins and outs" — the damage and chaos that could be wrought by a few countries going into a single currency and leaving the rest outside. His rhetoric on Friday — "Alice in Wonderland ... folly ... elitism" — recalled some of his predecessor's finest moments.

The Euro-sceptics like much of what they are hearing from the Prime Minister, and most are pleased that he is moving even further towards a referendum. Soon, however, he may have to start attacking the single currency itself, rather than concentrating on the dangers of mismanaging its introduction.

They do not like what they hear from Mr Clarke, who is confidently predicting that a single currency will happen. He does not quite say it, but everyone believes that he thinks Britain should be part of it.

The Prime Minister has often revealed himself as a man who likes a game of chance, and at Madrid he took another high-stakes bet. Europe's politicians are playing poker. All 15 governments are now being forced to risk their political credibility on whether or not the single currency happens on schedule in 1999. Chancellor Kohl, the lonely organiser who deals the cards, has persuaded every government except that of Britain to bet on success.

The meeting in Madrid opened the game. The official EU version holds that at least six or seven states will be economically ready to adopt the Euro in 1999 and that others will follow quickly. President Chirac of France, although restive, will have no choice but to force the ambivalent French electorate to accept a single currency. Currency dealers will buy and sell on the assumption that what the reassuringly solid Chancellor Kohl wants, he usually gets. And he wants monetary union very badly indeed. If not in 1999, then in 2000 or 2001.

Mr Major turns every one of these assumptions upside down. He hopes privately that France will fail to qualify and thus cripple the whole project. He says openly that only a handful of states will pass the tests and that the birth of a single currency will split the union. Before or after 1999, the odds are that the dream will dissolve into "chaos and recrimination" because statesmen with their heads in the clouds will have been brought down to earth by markets, voters or the plain fact that their plans will not work.

He is pinning all on his study convincing others of the dangers of pushing ahead too quickly. He would have liked it to take 12 months: instead it should be ready by Florence in June.

But while his fellow summiteers may harbour a few private doubts of their own, they will not voice them in public. The common wisdom in Madrid saw Britain locked in a spiral of self-delusion that will force one of Mr Major's successors to join the rich, hard currency long after everyone else has done so.

If Mr Major is off balance, the same applies to millions of voters across Europe who object to monetary union in far greater numbers than they oppose other plans being laid by the EU.

The single currency will only work if politicians can reverse public scepticism in Germany and elsewhere. Next month, the European Commission will start selling the euro to Europe. Mr Major made quite clear in Madrid that Brussels' single currency salesmen will get no help from him.

The Prime Minister would like popular pressure to do what he cannot: make the single currency — and the faint but horrible possibility that it might succeed — go away.

That was not the feeling that emerged from Madrid. "We simply cannot tumble into it like lemmings over a cliff," Mr Major said. However, on Friday and Saturday the juggernaut rumbled relentlessly on, with only Mr Major trying to apply the brakes.

He sounds comfortable with the idea of a referendum on any British Cabinet decision to go into a single currency. But the prospect of the Major Cabinet recommending British membership of a single currency now seems unimaginably remote.

The polls suggest that Mr Major will not have a Cabinet by 1998. How much room for manoeuvre will opinion or events leave Tony Blair if he comes to power in 1997?

The crunch, and quite possibly the EU's *annus horribilis*, comes in 1998 when EU leaders will vote on which states qualify for EMU and when both France and Germany hold general elections. By a delicious accident of timing, the British Prime Minister of the day will chair the spring summit that year which is due to decide who is in and who is out of monetary union.

The single currency is the poisoned chalice of British politics. If Mr Major has to hand it over to Mr Blair, it will be one of the few consolations for losing the election.



President Chirac, left, failed to block Chancellor Kohl's campaign for the new Euro-currency

Referendum prospect, page 1
Fisheries dispute, page 5
Kohl's hold, page 10
Peter Riddell, page 16

NEWS IN BRIEF

Vicar says sorry for slaying Santa

A vicar said sorry to his congregation yesterday for telling their children that Father Christmas does not exist. Canon Brian Andrews, of St Lawrence Church in Abbots Langley, Hertfordshire, had upset youngsters at a family service by telling them that Santa and the tooth fairy were figments of the imagination. He left some of the 50 children, aged two to nine, sobbing after saying that it was their mothers and fathers who filled their stockings with toys and put money under their pillows.

Parents were outraged, saying the vicar was destroying the magic of Christmas. But he claimed he was trying to show the children the dangers of treating the story of Jesus as a fairytale. He told adults yesterday in his congregation that his remark was ill-judged, and he apologised "unreservedly for any pain or hurt that I have caused". More than 20 children joined the congregation from the Sunday school at the end of the service, unveiling a "Merry Christmas" banner which featured a smiling Santa.

Two die in police chase

A policeman and a motorist were killed during a chase in Birmingham early yesterday. PC Robert Dallow, 41, with 20 years' service, was a passenger in a fast response vehicle as it chased a stolen Ford Escort. The police car crashed into a car driven by Neil Homer, aged in his twenties, who lives in Oldbury, West Midlands. PC Lezlie Collins, the police driver, suffered only minor injuries.

☐ David Laudat was killed instantly when his car hit a fire engine on an emergency call in Chorley, Lancashire.

New boot camp planned

Britain's second boot camp is to open next year at the Army's "glass house", providing young male offenders with tough, army-style discipline. Army personnel above the rank of sergeant will supervise up to 60 criminals sent to the Military Corrective Training Centre at Colchester. The soldiers will first receive training by the prison service. The regime will be broadly similar to that of military personnel sent to the glass house, including drill, physical training and earned privileges, such as watching television.

Free legal advice

A leading barrister has announced a scheme to provide free legal advice for deserving cases. The plan for free — or *pro bono* — work, starting early next year with a six-month pilot scheme, was outlined by the outgoing Bar Council chairman, Peter Goldsmith, QC. He said: "Cuts in eligibility have seen hundreds of thousands drop out of the legal aid safety net. A small profession like the Bar could never plug that gap. But it can tackle acute instances of potential injustice by offering its services."

Kate Adie breaks a leg

The BBC war correspondent Kate Adie was flown home from Sarajevo yesterday after slipping on ice and breaking her ankle in the Bosnian city. The 49-year-old reporter was due to arrive at RAF Lyneham, Wiltshire, last night on an air ambulance. She was then due to be transferred to a Nottingham hospital for surgery. Miss Adie has covered events in the former Yugoslavia since the war began four years ago. A BBC spokeswoman said: "It does seem to be a fairly serious fracture."

Stress destroys morale

Stress is causing absence, accidents, reduced productivity, low morale, bad customer care, aggression and conflict, a survey of nearly 700 personnel directors for the Industrial Society suggests today. It also identifies a so-called "blame culture" in which managers refuse to take responsibility for subordinates' mistakes and instead seek scapegoats. The society finds it "deeply disturbing" that managers believe stress is part of the job and that dangerously little is done to tackle the problem.

Cromwell St plummets

Property prices have slumped in Cromwell Street, Gloucester, after the conviction of Rosemary West. Estate agents say that no one wants to move into the area where West — sentenced to life for murdering ten women and girls — and her husband Fred lived. Ted Wynn, of the Gloucester estate agents ME Wynn & Co, said: "The whole street has been affected. We have a house for sale at the moment with six bedrooms which would normally have fetched £60,000. We're offering it for £34,000."

Lloyd Webber protest

Animal welfare campaigners are taking action against the composer Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber over his decision to apply to farm ostriches on his 4,000-acre Hampshire estate. London Animal Action will be organising a protest on Wednesday evening outside the Drury Lane theatre staging his musical, *Cats*. A spokesman for the composer said he is known for supporting animal welfare causes and will not introduce ostrich farming until "fully satisfied that all the welfare concerns can be taken into account".

Open and shut case

An irate husband gave three passing youths an unexpected bonus when he hurled a briefcase containing £500 of Christmas Club money at his wife during a row. The briefcase missed its target and sailed over a hedge at the couple's home in Grantham, Lincolnshire. It was picked up by the youths, who fled. The husband gave chase to try to recover the cash, which belonged to Grantham Bowls Club, but the youths ran out of sight. A police spokesman said: "The case was recovered but there was not a penny in it."

More water restrictions likely within weeks

BY NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

MORE parts of the country are facing water restrictions within weeks as the drought deepens, government advisers will announce today.

Millions of consumers in southern and eastern counties are likely to face hosepipe bans and other controls early in the new year unless there is a substantial increase in rainfall.

The number of drought orders is also expected to rise, increasing the volume of water taken into reservoirs from rivers, to the alarm of conservationists, fishermen and wildlife groups.

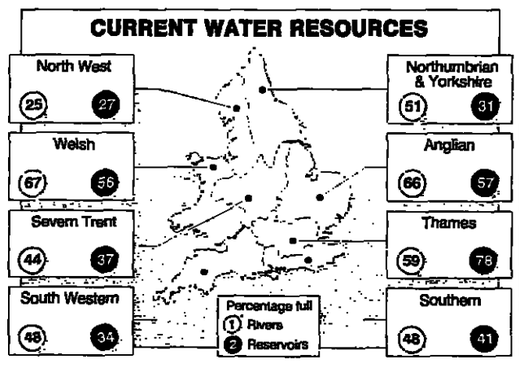
The next flurry of drought order applications is expected in Yorkshire before the end of the year. The company has announced plans to take more from the rivers Ure, Wharfe, Ouse and lower Derwent. Other drought order applications are expected from South West, Severn Trent, Welsh and Southern, seeking approval to pump more out of rivers to refill reservoirs.

A survey of winter water levels in rivers, reservoirs and underground aquifers has shown that supplies are continuing to fall. Despite a wet September, rainfall up to the end of last month has been a third less than in an average year. Jerry Sherriff, head of water resources at the National Rivers Authority (NRA), said yesterday: "Many reservoirs are at unprecedented levels." Rivers in most parts of the country are also running far below their usual winter levels.

New areas of concern pinpointed in the report include the West Sussex supply area. About 450,000 people along the Sussex coast are also facing hosepipe bans.

Other areas with increasing difficulties include south Kent, parts of north Hampshire and south Berkshire.

Yorkshire Water's plan to pump more water from rivers has triggered an angry reaction from English Nature, the Government's wildlife advisers. The lower Derwent feeds one of Europe's most important wetlands, an area home to rare plants and animals and a key wintering site for thousands of migratory wildfowl such as rare Bewick's swans.



Amnesty on knives after fatal stabbing

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A KNIVES amnesty is to be launched in England and Wales later this week to capitalise on widespread public outrage at the fatal stabbing of headmaster Philip Lawrence.

All 43 police forces in England and Wales will take part in the four-week "bin your blade" amnesty in which it is hoped that thousands of weapons will be left in bins at police stations. Anyone who dumps their knife will not have to answer questions. Some officers believe many more weapons would be handed in if bins were placed near town halls or bottle banks.

During a similar operation in Scotland in 1993 4,569 weapons — including swords and bayonets — were handed in in 12 weeks.

The amnesty, which starts on Wednesday and runs until January 20, has been arranged by the Association of Chief Police Officers.

Prisons compete for new five-star security ratings

BY RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

PRISONS are to be awarded ratings for security in an attempt to prevent the lapses that led to breakouts at Whitemoor and Parkhurst top-security jails.

The Prison Service is also studying whether officers should have the power to conduct intimate body searches of inmates to stop drugs being smuggled into jails.

Officials in the prison service want each of the 133 jails in England and Wales to be given one of five official ratings after annual security inspections. They are proposing to publish the ratings as a way of reassuring the public and raising standards. Richard Tilt, acting director-general of the service, wants jails rated as superior, good, acceptable, deficient and unacceptable. Unacceptable ratings would require immediate action.

During inspections a team of officials spends up to a week in a jail, looking at external physical security measures such as closed circuit television and fencing, watching staff carry out cell searches and the monitoring of wings and visits. Mr Tilt said that a prison winning the top rating could be rewarded by the service substituting a two-yearly security inspection for the current annual check.

Security audits were set up a year ago in the wake of Sir John Woodcock's report into the escape of five IRA men from Whitemoor prison at March in Cambridgeshire.

Mr Tilt said: "We have swung towards security in the last 12 months and quite deliberately so. We are continuing to place a high priority on security."

Some prison staff are pressing to be given power to conduct intimate body searches of prisoners in an effort to cut the amount of drugs being smuggled into jails. The move, which would have implications for staff-inmate relationships, is being studied by the service and would require legislation to be introduced by the Government.



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IRA surrender of guns 'remote'

BY NICHOLAS WATT, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

MARTIN MCGUINNESS, the leading Sinn Fein member, said yesterday that there was not the "remotest possibility" that the IRA would disarm ahead of a political settlement in Northern Ireland.

Speaking on the eve of Sinn Fein's meeting in Dublin today with the international disarmament body, Mr McGuinness reiterated a recent hardline IRA statement that rejected Britain's demand for a decommissioning of its arms.

Asked on BBC Radio Ulster whether Sinn Fein's discussions with the commission would lead the IRA to hand over any weapons, Mr McGuinness said: "I don't believe that there is anybody seriously engaged in the in-depth discussions and negotiations of this process who believes that there is even the remotest possibility of any of that happening, whether it is from the British Army, the loyalists, the RUC or the IRA, in the absence of a negotiated settlement."

Mr McGuinness said he hoped the commission would reject Britain's insistence that the IRA must decommission some arms before Sinn Fein can join all-party talks. Mr McGuinness, who will join Gerry Adams at Sinn Fein's meeting with the commission at Dublin Castle this morning, said: "Many people fear the consequences of an inflexible British stance which continues to block any movement into all-party talks."

Mr McGuinness also dismissed a report that he had recently resigned from the IRA army council to distance Sinn Fein from the IRA. Mr McGuinness, who was convicted by a Dublin court of IRA membership in the 1970s, said that he had never been a member of the IRA army council.

His hardline comments will set the tone for Sinn Fein's meeting with the arms commission, which is chaired by George Mitchell, the former American senator. Sinn Fein will tell the commission that Britain should observe the rules of conflict resolution by dropping its demand for the decommissioning of arms by the IRA.

The party will also say that the arms of the security forces must be considered on the same level as IRA arms, and they will call on the commission to consider the reports into allegations of a shoot-to-kill policy by the RUC in the 1980s.



McGuinness: accused the British of inflexibility

☐ **Johannesburg:** South Africa has agreed to a request by Sinn Fein to investigate the alleged sale of weapons by Armscor, the South African state arms agency, to loyalists between 1991 and 1994, Dullah Omar, the Justice Minister, said (Inigo Gilmour writes).



هكذا من الأصل

Sporting stars outshine academic rivals at Oxbridge



Andrew: fly-half who also picked up an upper-second

BY JOHN O'LEARY
EDUCATION EDITOR

THE enduring image of the intellectually challenged Oxbridge sports star has been exposed as a myth in a study that shows blues now outperform their less active counterparts in the examination hall.

Analysis of the degree results from several main sports shows Oxford blues beating the university's average. The hockey team boasted a clutch of firsts while winning a place in the National League, all but one of the cricketers graduating last summer managed at least an upper-second, and successive rugby teams also exceeded the degree norm.

Fierce academic competition has all but ended the concessions once made to outstanding sporting prospects by the ancient universities. Sir Colin Cowdrey was one of many top sportsmen to leave Oxford without a degree, but recent results show that today's stars have to be all-rounders.

Matthew Syed, the top English table tennis player, took a first at Balliol College, and even the rowers, who have been the butt of academics' jokes down the years, have now caught up. The eights who dominated the Boat Race between 1976 and 1985 matched the university degree average.

Dr Richard Cooper, who chaired a university sports taskforce, is collating figures collected by the various clubs to support the case for better central sports facilities. He said: "The university has a firm line that we do not let in anybody who isn't up to it academically. But the top sportsmen tend to be tremendous organisers, who pack a lot into their day."

Sir Roger Bannister, who ran the first sub-four-minute mile as a medical student at Oxford, said: "Times have changed since the post-war period when I went up to Exeter College. People used to ask if you were a 'reading man' and the afternoons were pretty well given up to sport and other activities, but now entry standards are much higher and most colleges do not pay any attention to sporting prowess in selecting students."

Cambridge is yet to conduct a systematic study, but anecdotal evidence confirms the dark blues' findings. Tony Lemons, the university's director of physical education, said: "I watch the results fairly carefully, and I believe that the degrees sportsmen and women get are certainly as good as anyone else's, if not slightly better."

Last summer's cricket team produced two first-class degrees among the top-order batsmen, while rugby and rowing are dominated by postgraduates, who require at least an upper-second class degree to secure a place. "We would like more sportsmen at Cambridge, but we do not sacrifice academic standards."

Most of Cambridge's best-known sportsmen of recent years have achieved good academic results. Mike Brearley, the former England cricket captain, took a first, while Mike Atherton, the current holder of the post, his team-mate John Crawley and the rugby star Rob Andrew all managed upper-seconds.

Oxford is a third of the way towards its target of £3 million to build a university swimming pool. An appeal for an all-weather hockey pitch is likely to follow. The colleges have given £500,000 towards the pool, a sum matched by a grant from the university's fund-raising appeal. Oxford has put in a bid to the National Lottery for the remaining £2 million.

Dr Cooper, a Fellow of Brasenose College, said: "The colleges have always had good facilities, but the university centrally is beginning to take sport seriously now. These surveys show that our sportsmen are not thick at all."



Cowdrey: batsman who left without a degree

Woman officer manacled as a joke

Policemen forced to resign after handcuff prank

BY STEPHEN FARRELL

THREE policemen who handcuffed a woman officer during "horseplay" at a west London station have been forced to resign. The Metropolitan Police constables, each with more than 15 years' experience, were found guilty of discreditable conduct at a disciplinary hearing, Scotland Yard confirmed yesterday.

PCs Graham Stanton, Paul Mapletoft and Stephen Randall, all in their thirties, were based at Feltham police station with the younger woman constable. The three men were "messing about" before going off duty when Mr Stanton pulled out the handcuffs and put them around her wrists. Mr Mapletoft was said to have joined in while Mr Randall stood by.

The WPC screamed and her protests were heard by a woman colleague, who came into the room. She is said to have backed up the victim's version of events. The victim's fiancé, whom she is due to marry in June, is also a policeman and was said to be "incensed" at the men's behaviour. "He wanted to go and hit them, but knew he couldn't," said a colleague. The woman, who is in her twenties, made a formal allegation of assault and a complaints investigation team was called in.

A Scotland Yard spokeswoman said criminal proceedings were not necessary because the constables were not accused of indecent assault. Handcuffing alone would justify an assault investigation and finding of discreditable conduct, she said.

The two-day disciplinary hearing, which ended on Friday, was understood to have been chaired by two senior officers, including Paul Manning, a regional commander. The officers, who have denied behaving improperly, have lodged appeals. One source said: "It appears that the handcuffing was part of horseplay, messing around, rather than anything done violently."

The victim, whose father is also a policeman, spent four days thinking over her decision before going ahead with a formal complaint. She returned to duty after the incident. During the investigation, Mr Stanton and Mr Randall stayed in the Hounslow division but Mr Mapletoft was transferred to Heathrow.

A friend of the victim said she was shocked when friendly station room joking suddenly went out of control. "It was just the usual banter that got out of hand. She was really distressed at what happened," he said yesterday.

"It's going to be awful for her to come back to work after three guys got kicked out, but the blokes at the station have supported her 100 per cent. Everyone knows you can have a laugh and a joke but you don't touch.

"The feeling is Stanton went because he is a handcuff instructor. We are all told the cuffs are not to be used for anything other than prisoners. What's the point of him drumming it into everybody at the station if he then goes and does something like this?"

MICHAEL CRABTREE



Marilyn Ivory complained that she was made the butt of smutty jokes and innuendo as the Church of England moved towards the ordination of women

St Paul's virger wins claim of unfair dismissal

BY RUSSELL JENKINS

A WOMAN virger at St Paul's Cathedral who claimed that she was demoted and subjected to smutty jokes and sexual innuendo has won a claim for unfair dismissal.

Marilyn Ivory, 49, of Wanstead, east London, was yesterday celebrating her victory over senior churchmen who moved her from the cathedral post she had held for nine years. An industrial tribunal upheld her claim against the Dean of St Paul's, the Very Rev Eric Evans. Another claim for sexual discrimination was rejected because the allegations were submitted after a three-month time limit.

John Scannell, the tribunal chairman, criticised the male hierarchy of the cathedral for making comments which "affected the dignity of a woman at work". He attacked the cathedral's staff policy for a "complete lack of disciplinary rules and procedures".

Mrs Ivory, who has been unable to find work since she left the cathedral three years ago, will use the 15-page reserved judgment to seek damages against the cathedral. She said yesterday: "I am enormously pleased that I have won and I feel vindicated for taking the stand I did. It has all been worth it. They were determined to do some downsizing and they picked on me."

Mrs Ivory was the only female senior virger at the cathedral, where she wore a cassock, performed official duties during religious ceremonies and helped to supervise tourists. She claimed that the atmosphere became increasingly oppressive as the Church of England moved towards the ordination of women priests. She was made the butt of smutty jokes and sexual innuendo, she said.

She claimed that when the department was reorganised in 1992, her job effectively disappeared. While four male virgers kept their posts, she was told that she could accept a job as till supervisor or take redundancy.

She was ordered to exchange her cassock for a business suit and given a cloakroom cupboard for an office. Mrs Ivory, who was earning £17,000 a year, gave in her notice.

St Paul's Cathedral said yesterday: "The cathedral has no comment to make about the result, other than to note that despite the acusations against Canon [Michael] Saward and various virgers, the complaint of sex discrimination has, in the words of the tribunal, 'failed completely'."

Head threatened in parking row

BY EMMA WILKINS

A HEADMASTER has won a court order to protect him against local residents in a dispute over parking.

David Capp, who has been headmaster of Brundall Primary School, Brundall, Norfolk, for 26 years, went to court after "Kill Capp" was daubed on his garage door.

The dispute centres on the use of a lane near the school where parents regularly park their cars. Residents, who argue that the lane is a private road, claim that cars have been left blocking their garages for up to three hours while parents attend school events.

In one case earlier this year a householder blocked off the lane with bollards, leading to a scuffle between a local man and a parent which was broken up by police.

Mr Capp's contribution to the dispute came last summer when he wrote an article in the school magazine assuring parents that they were free to park in the lane.

Norfolk County Council decided to seek a court injunction to protect Mr Capp when the graffito was found the day after the murder of Philip Lawrence, the headmaster who was stabbed while protecting a pupil outside his school in Maida Vale, west London.

The injunction names six residents: Anthony Manners, a company director and his wife Janet; Michael Richardson, an oil rig worker and his wife Doreen, and Bill Turpin, a builder and his wife Mary.

During the hearing last Friday at Norwich County Court the proceedings were dropped against Mrs Turpin and those against Mrs Richardson were adjourned.

The four others signed an undertaking to "restore the good order and control of the community", at the direction of David Crome, the Recorder.

The judge ordered Mr and Mrs Manners, Mr Richardson and Mr Turpin not to enter Mr Capp's property or the school grounds, other than for lawful reasons, and not to molest or harass Mr Capp or his wife Adrienne.

Lost story recasts Miller salesman

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

A FORGOTTEN short story by the teenage Arthur Miller suggests that the inspiration for the central character in *Death of a Salesman* was not his father but a suicidal coat salesman called Schoenzeit.

The manuscript for the 1932 story, entitled *In Memoriam*, was found in Miller archives at the University of Texas. The 17-year-old describes an afternoon he spent with Schoenzeit when they were both working for Miller's grandfather, who owned a coat-manufacturing business. The impression of Schoenzeit is richly evocative of Willy Loman, hero of Miller's 1949 dramatic masterpiece.

The young Miller captures the hopelessness of an adult salesman, drained by the demands of life in the Depression, in the manuscript found recently by John Lahr, drama critic of the *New Yorker*. It is published in today's issue of the magazine.

The story depicts Schoenzeit sitting at his workplace, "tears of perspiration dotting the reddened ridge that his gray felt hat had made around his head. The shiny, bulgy-toed shoes placed flatly and it seemed carefully on the carpet, his overcoat folded neatly on a chair, the bow of his ties stuck so perfectly into the crevice of a starched, rounded collar completed a setting where I am sure he never belonged." After an unsuccessful trip to a large retailer, Schoenzeit adopts the look of "a small dog who has messed in the house, standing now, after his beating, waiting for his master to open the door to the back yard". Miller mentions his colleague's quick-fading laughter, his unpredictable conversation.

Mr Lahr said yesterday: "Occasionally you stumble on something that really gets your heart running. It happened when I found this story. This was the seed which produced Willy Loman."

Mr Lahr said the playwright had told him he had forgotten writing the story. "He had no memory of it and was as fascinated as the rest of us," he said.

Football rematch revives old fears

BY JOHN GOODBODY AND KATE ALDERSON

THE worst fears of the police were realised yesterday when the draw for the European Championship football finals brought England, Scotland and Holland together in the same preliminary group. The clash between England and Scotland at Wembley on June 15 is possibly the most combustible in the tournament.

However, Glen Kirton, the tournament director, moved to head off concern about the fixture. "We welcome the Scots with open arms. Every match has its own particular challenge, Scotland no more than any other," he said.

The oldest international in the world was abandoned in 1989 after a series of violent outbursts. In 1967, Scottish supporters celebrated their victory at Wembley over England's World Cup winners by invading the pitch and cutting up pieces of turf. Ten years later, they broke one of the crossbars in their delight at another victory. After further trouble in 1988 and 1989, the annual fixture was stopped.



A Scottish victory at Wembley in 1977 ended with jubilant supporters destroying one of the goals

The England v Holland game on June 18 will generate further security problems. When the two countries met in the 1990 World Cup in Cagliari, there were fights between England followers and the Sardinian police, who succeeded in keeping rival supporters apart.

Assistant Chief Constable Malcolm George, head of policing for Euro '96, described the £20 million security operation for the tournament as "massive" but not intrusive. "Our main strategy has to be quite intellectual and we have to target the hooligan element, not just here in the UK but those that are among the 250,000 spectators who are coming from Europe." Every point of entry will be monitored.

The whole security operation will be run from Scotland Yard by a special unit.

Mr George, who has already been working for two years on preparations, accepted that there will be pockets of fighting, "but it will be OK in the end. I am confident we have got the strategy, manpower and intelligence to ensure that this is remembered as a football event, not a hooligan event."

Euro '96, pages 1, 21, 27

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Post-modernist defence headquarters tries to shake off traditional image of Whitehall mandarins

MoD's biggest spender moves into £254m base

BY MICHAEL EVANS

A panel of heritage experts will advise on the selection of a new owner for the 300-year-old Royal Naval College at Greenwich, it will be announced this week. Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary, has shortlisted three contenders for the Wren buildings, out of eight original bids. Greenwich University, in conjunction with the National Maritime Museum, has emerged as the favourite to take over the site when the Ministry of Defence vacates the college in 1997. An American university is also rumoured to have put in a bid.

THE Ministry of Defence's biggest spender, who has an annual budget of £7 billion, moves into his new £254 million post-modernist offices today — a futuristic complex that includes cafes and indoor "streets" to encourage staff to mix socially.

After two years of building work, a 98-acre site at Abbey Wood near Bristol has been transformed into a headquarters for the MoD's equipment procurement executive, headed by Malcolm McIntosh, its Australian chief.

Dr McIntosh and his senior staff will start work in their open-plan office this morning and expect to become the envy of every MoD civil servant left behind in London in overheated and ageing buildings.

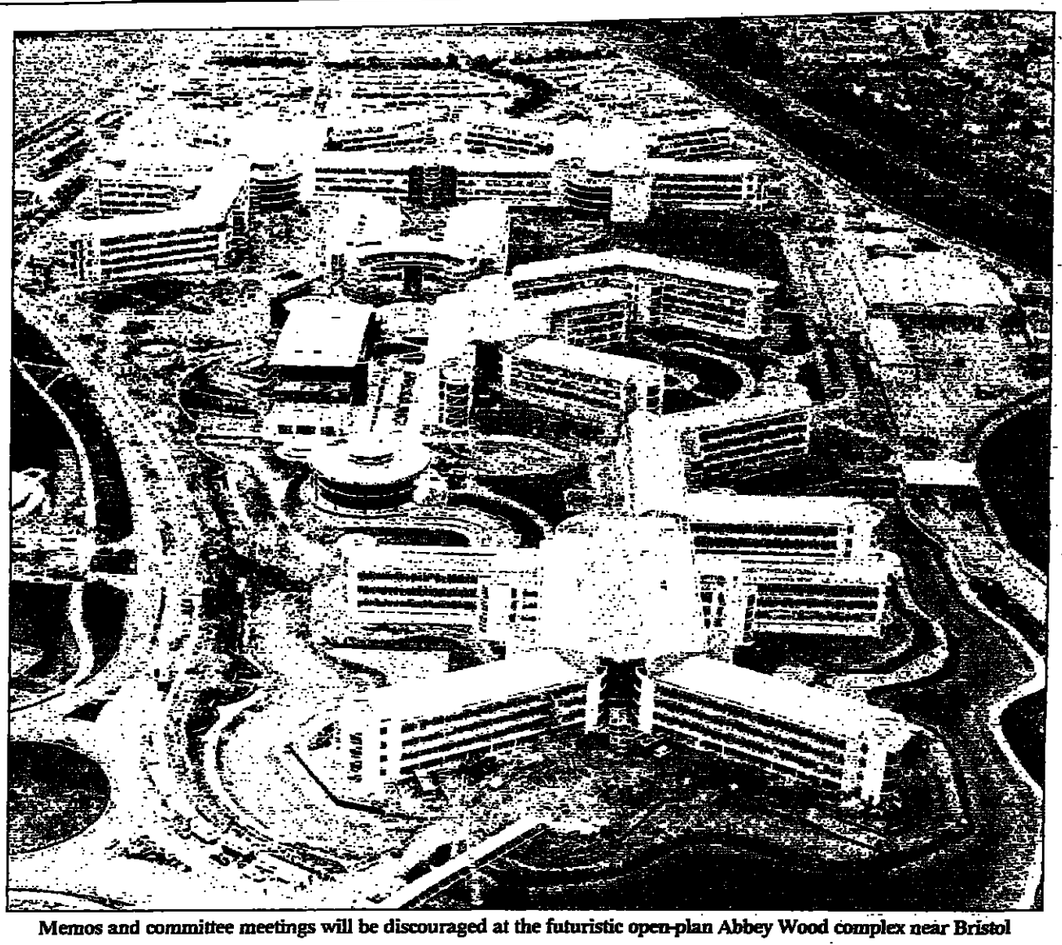
The Abbey Wood complex, which has been built with long-lasting, sun-absorbing Portland stone, was nearly scrapped when ministers and the Treasury questioned whether it was necessary to build such a huge establishment and sought alternative ways of housing the procurement executive's 7,800 staff. As part of the MoD's Frontline First defence costs study, aimed at saving money in the support services, the justification for continuing with the Abbey Wood project was minutely examined. With plans to slim the workforce to 4,300 by 1997 because of defence cuts, it was even mooted whether to scrap the department and leave weapon-buying to the three individual Armed Services.

However, John Gulvin, the MoD's director-general of business strategy, said there was overwhelming support for finishing the project because the multimillion-pound complex would eventually save £105 million a year in maintenance and manpower costs. The Abbey Wood complex — including a lake designed to serve a security purpose as a moat — 25,000 shrubs and 5,000 trees, will also revolutionise Civil Service culture, which has been nurtured over the years in impersonal Whitehall corridors and offices with closed doors.

Each office in the complex, based around four "neighbourhood" working blocks, is open plan and even the partitions are transparent. Dr McIntosh has the same furniture as everyone else and the 4,300 staff who will be in place by October next year, will be expected to stop sending memos and attending endless committees. Paperwork will be replaced by chats in the piazza and negotiations along the Northumbrian-slate "streets" or glass-covered bridges linking offices, or in the 75-seat cafés. There is also a 500-seat restaurant.

The MoD civil servants who will leave London for Bristol will each be given about £25,000 in relocation expenses, which, with special computer equipment, will add another £80 million to the cost of the project.

The single site at Abbey Wood will replace nine different buildings in London which house the procurement executive, including the decaying and ugly Empress State tower block in Earl's Court, and St Christopher's House in Southwark which has nets attached to the outside to catch falling masonry. Mr Gulvin added: "There is no rule which says that if you build a new building for civil servants it has to be unattractive. We could have designed two huge monolithic blocks but this will be much more attractive and better for the whole environment, as well as providing efficient offices."



Memos and committee meetings will be discouraged at the futuristic open-plan Abbey Wood complex near Bristol



Doctors reject US concerns over cancer drug trial

BY NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

THE biggest trial of a breast cancer drug in Britain is going ahead in spite of a similar trial being abandoned in America, where it is feared that long-term use might be doing more harm than good.

Both the Cancer Research Campaign and the Imperial Cancer Research Fund have defended the British trial of tamoxifen, a drug used after surgery for early breast cancer. They say that parallels with the American trial are not close, suggesting the authorities there may have acted over-hastily.

The American results suggested that the effects of tamoxifen may fade with prolonged use or, worse, that cancer risks may increase in women who have taken the drug for more than five years.

The findings emerged from a review carried out last month by the managers of a trial known as B-14 investigating the long-term use of tamoxifen. The National Surgical Adjuvant Breast and Bowel Project, based in Pittsburgh, which was running the trial, found unexpected results. Among women who had taken tamoxifen for five years, 92 per cent were still free of disease four years later. Among those who had taken it for longer than five years, 86 per cent were disease-free.

In addition, the longer-term group had six cases of endometrial cancer, against two in the five-year group; six new cancers in the untreated breast, against five; and 12 new primary cancers of other organs, against nine. These findings are said to be matched by those of a Scottish study yet to be published.

In Birmingham, recruitment for a major tamoxifen trial continues. The organisers are hoping for 20,000 volunteers and have so far recruited 2,000. Dr Helena Earl, co-chairman of the committee co-ordinating the trial, said: "The general view in this country is that the numbers of patients involved in the US study is very small, and that it is impossible to make meaningful judgments."

Professor Richard Peto, of the research fund's Cancer Studies Unit in Oxford, said: "It may well have been a mistake for the American trial to have been stopped. If it had continued the final result might have been quite different."

The fund says that it is impossible to know what term of treatment is the optimum. While trials are in progress, the play of chance may happen to favour either shorter or longer treatment, but taken as a whole, there is no clear evidence as to whether two years, five years, or substantially more than five years is best. Dr Earl said that she hoped the continuing uncertainty would encourage more women to take part in the British trial.

An outlook that keeps improving



MEDICAL BRIEFING

LINDA McCARTNEY has had minor surgery, a lumpectomy, for the removal of a small malignant tumour from her breast. It was diagnosed after she had a scan at the Princess Grace Hospital in London last week.

The mammography unit at the Princess Grace has a reputation for providing a remarkably high standard of accuracy in its interpretation of mammograms, and the overall standard in the interpretation in the NHS of mammograms has improved enormously since tighter supervision of quality control was introduced. Now well over 80 per cent of tumours are detected at the first visit. It is greatly easier after the second attendance, when changes in pattern are more obvious.

Recent reports in the *New England Journal of Medicine* and the *British Medical Journal* have analysed the results of different types of breast surgery for early, small cancerous lumps. Doctors have compared survival after lumpectomy with or without radiotherapy with those following mastectomy. The surveys have shown that there is no appreciable difference in the outcome from the three groups.

Radiotherapy reduced the local recurrence rate, and fewer patients died of their tumour, but more from other causes. Recently introduced improvements in radiotherapy are likely to reduce these incidental deaths after its use, and there is already evidence that survival times are now being increased if women have radiotherapy as well as surgery.

Tamoxifen, although it has side-effects, some serious, has enormously improved the chances of survival. Early detection with mammography is important.

A careful 20-year study, as yet unpublished and with its data still to be finally and independently checked, is likely to prove sensational when the results are announced, as it shows an amazingly high 20-year survival rate in women, including those between 40 and 50, whose breast cancer was first detected by routine mammography.

DR THOMAS STUTTAFORD

Avoid getting your head chopped off by the in-laws this Christmas.

What do you give the family that can't resist snapping away at each other? Why, the Olympus AF-10 Mini gift set, naturally. Everything one could possibly need is included in this little Christmas box: camera, carrying case, batteries and colour film. And with auto focus, auto wind and anti-red eye, taking a picture is simplicity itself. In fact, all the in-laws need to do is load, point and shoot. Which, of course, should come as second nature. THE OLYMPUS AF-10 MINI GIFT SET



هكذا من الأصل

Labour seeks to extend Tory revolt as Commons votes on cut in British fishing quota

Major faces defeat as Euro-camps join forces

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MINISTERS are trying to avert a backbench rebellion over the European fisheries policy which threatens to renew Tory tensions.

In an unlikely alliance, Euro-sceptics plan to use the vote tomorrow to underline their opposition to fish quotas while pro-European MPs have said that they may register dissatisfaction at the Government's negative attitude towards the single currency. About five Conservative MPs with strong fishing interests are waiting for the precise wording of the motions for debate before deciding whether to join at least ten other Tories in the rebellion. With a government majority of only five, abstentions are likely to prove decisive.

John Major and Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, appealed for calm yesterday as they sought to avert a defeat in the final Commons vote of the year. Mr Major asked Tory MPs not to try to defeat the Government on a "routine token debate". He said: "I hope colleagues will not choose to express dissatisfaction at any aspect of European policy, and I have no knowledge that they are going to. We will have to wait and see."

Mr Rifkind said that he sympathised with complaints about the fisheries policy but warned potential rebels that they would be "pretty foolish" to use a vote that will not change the policy. They would be "shooting themselves in the foot" in siding with Labour.

Tony Baldry, the Fisheries Minister, is meeting MPs today and tomorrow in a last attempt to persuade them to drop their revolt over plans, to be discussed by fisheries ministers in Brussels this week, to reduce the amount of fish that can be caught in British waters.

Although the outcome of the vote may depend on the number of Ulster Unionist MPs who attend, Labour will today draft an amendment aimed at attracting as many Tory backbench supporters as possible.

Hugh Dykes, a leading pro-European MP, renewed his threat to withhold his support in protest at the Government's "timid" approach at Madrid to a single currency. "I don't expect the Prime Minister to lead this country from the point of view of living in the past and indulging in old nostalgia," he said. David Howell, another pro-European, has suggested that he might also register his protest over foreign policy.



Baldry: final attempt to dissuade potential rebels

Peter Riddell, page 16



One of the few remaining inshore boats still fishing out of Aldeburgh pictured by Simon Walker yesterday being launched from the strand

Inshore catch consigns boats to scrapheap

BY IAN MURRAY

UNEMPLOYMENT drove Rodney Burns to find work as a fisherman 26 years ago. He is now faced with the prospect of the dole queue again because European Union quotas make it impossible for him to survive using the age-old methods employed by inshore fishermen.

He owns one of eight boats still fishing from the open strand at Aldeburgh on the Suffolk coast. In 1969, the year in which he found his first job, there were 38 boats.

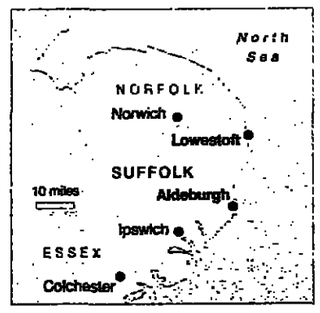
"Every year now more and more of us have to give up," he said yesterday. "Because we are caught by the quota system we are only earning enough on a day-to-day basis to survive and when boats need replacing or require major overhaul there is just no money to pay for it."

The fishermen say they lose 150 days of fishing a year when the heavy North Sea swell rolling on to the beach makes it impossible to launch their boats. "Those lost days should be our quota," Mr Burns said. "Boats from harbours like Lowestoft do not lose anything like as many days and Brussels should recognise that.

"If they make us stop fishing when we can put to sea, there is just no way we can continue. Last month alone we lost 20 days while faster, bigger boats from other ports scooped the fish up. Then they stop us fishing because the quota has been reached.

"Boats from other ports are still allowed to go on fishing in our waters. It's nothing to do with conservation. It's insane."

He said he stopped his two sons becoming fishermen because there was no future in it. "Nothing would give me greater pleasure than for them to have followed in my footsteps, but that would be a short cut to unemployment.



"My boat, the *Dorothy May*, is 18 years old and cannot last much longer, but I will never be able to afford the £25,000 to replace her and I don't think any bank would be prepared to lend a fisherman here that sort of money. We could never keep up the payments."

Mr Burns said he did not think any motion passed by Parliament would save them from the quota system. "As far as I can see the best we can hope for is that they can eventually negotiate something in Brussels."

However, he said, that would take "a very long time, and even if they change their minds about us it is likely to be too late.

"We have done everything we can, but with these quotas I cannot see how we can survive. When we go it will be devastating for the town because we have been an essential part of it for generations."

'Fast lane' for church schools is diverted

BY JOHN O'LEARY
EDUCATION EDITOR

JOHN MAJOR'S plans for church schools to opt out of local authority control without balloting parents are on the brink of being withdrawn after a renewed split between Downing Street and Gillian Shephard, the Education and Employment Secretary.

There have been more than 2,000 responses on proposals to give governors the power to determine a school's status, and most have been overwhelmingly hostile. Anglican and Roman Catholic bishops have described the idea as discriminatory and divisive.

However, the Prime Minister is reluctant to abandon a personal initiative that he sees as essential to renewing the drive towards more grant-maintained schools. The issue of the 4,000 church schools threatens to reopen a rift that was evident in lengthy discussions over nursery vouchers and over Mr Major's desire for all schools to become grant-maintained.

The Queen's Speech made no commitment to a "fast track" for church schools in signalling further legislation on opting out. But a change of mind on the issue would leave both of the Education Department's current bills in disarray after last week's postponement of the privatisation of student loans.

Mrs Shephard said that no decision had been reached on which of six options to adopt. "The Prime Minister and I feel very strongly about the advantages of self-government for schools, and work on extending that benefit to all schools is continuing."

David Blunkett, the Shadow Education and Employment Secretary, called for the initiative to be shelved.

He said: "When the Conservative Party takes on the Church of England, let alone the Catholics and other churches, we really do know they have signed a suicide note for the general election."

Leading article, page 17

There is only ONE product to prevent a cold sore appearing

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Disclosures that Davis used American company's jet add to row over bribery claim

Lottery undermined by regulator's GTech links

By Jon Ashworth

THE removal of Peter Davis as regulator of the National Lottery would plunge one of Britain's biggest money spinners into deep uncertainty. Technically, responsibility for regulating the National Lottery would pass to Mr Davis's deputy, Diana Kahn, but her position may be undermined if Mr Davis goes. Ms Kahn has travelled around America on a GTech jet, and her credibility is similarly at threat.

It was never imagined that the regulator could be removed from his post in this manner, and it is not clear whether guidelines covering this eventuality exist.

The storm over Mr Davis's links with GTech, the American lottery company, poses the most serious threat to the National Lottery since Noel Edmonds first called for the balls to be activated in November last year. The past 13 months have seen attacks on excessive profits and misjudged hand-outs, but this is the first time the foundations of the lottery have been challenged.

The turmoil began a week ago, when bribery claims made by Richard Branson surfaced on the BBC1's *Panorama*. Mr Branson, whose vision was for a non-profit-making National Lottery, claimed that Guy Snowden, chairman of GTech, had tried to bribe him to stay out of the race in September 1993. GTech described the allegation as an "evil smear".

Mr Branson responded on Friday by starting libel proceedings against GTech, accusing the company of calling him a liar. It was separately announced that a senior and independent person, likely to be a leading QC, would be appointed to investigate Mr Branson's allegations.

Mr Davis was dragged into the row after denying on *Panorama* that he had ever been told about Mr Branson's bribe allegations. Mr Branson insists that he did tell Mr Davis, with witnesses present, but concedes that he mentioned it informally.

The storm moved into the political arena when Mr Davis admitted to members of the Commons Public Accounts Committee that he had accepted the use of a GTech private jet during a whistle-stop tour of American state lotteries in October 1994. MPs accused Mr Davis of acting like an innocent abroad: as National Lottery regulator he has an obligation to distance himself from participants. GTech holds a 22.5 per cent stake in Camelot, the consortium to which Mr Davis awarded the National Lottery licence in May 1994.

Full details of Mr Davis's controversial trip were disclosed in *The Times* on Thursday. After catching a scheduled flight to Austin, Texas, he flew to Florida, Georgia and New Jersey, travelling in a GTech corporate jet, and escorted by the GTech official responsible for British operations. Mr Davis said he could not otherwise have visited so many lotteries in such a short space of time.

His position became more precarious when it emerged on Saturday that he had spent a weekend in Long Island with Carl Menges, a long-standing family friend and GTech director. Mr Davis and his wife Vanessa had been due to drive to Long Island with Mr Menges and his wife Cordelia but they were persuaded to travel in a GTech helicopter that was put at their disposal. Mr Davis was uneasy, and outlined his concerns in a confidential memo on his return to Britain, noting that a "sensitive situation" had arisen. He made four flights in the GTech helicopter.

The disclosures prompted calls for Mr Davis's resignation, and he has been considering his position over the weekend.

Gambling predicted to increase by £5bn

British punters could spend an extra £5 billion a year on gambling by the turn of the century because of the popularity of the National Lottery, a group of economic forecasters claims today.

A report by the Henley Centre, suggests that the number of people enjoying a flutter has grown from 15 to 30 million and confirms that Britain is becoming a nation of inveterate gamblers.

The £4.4 billion spent last year on Lottery tickets and 'Instants' scratch cards is having a profound effect on the High Street. Forecasters believe that businesses and charities are losing out. They say that £2.5 billion of consumer spending will be diverted into Lottery sales next year with very little prize money being reinvested in shops.

☐ One ticket holder scooped the top prize of £8.2 million in this week's lottery draw. A further 23 tickets netted £109,892 each for matching five numbers plus the bonus ball.

Lottery numbers, page 20

PETER NICHOLLS



Peter Davis walking near his home in Wimbledon, southeast London, yesterday

Resort for jackpot winners in the great American power game



Bacall: takes first-class bus from New York to Hamptons

From Quentin Letts in New York

A WALL STREET financier entangled in the National Lottery controversy said yesterday that he has been a "very close friend for many, many years" of Peter Davis, the lottery regulator. Carl Menges, a veteran New York financier, said it was "a bloody shame" that his friendship with Mr Davis was being subjected to such scrutiny.

Mr Menges was speaking at his attractive weekend house in East Hampton, Long Island, where Mr and Mrs Davis were guests in October 1994. It is a Manhattan player's classic weekend haunt, set amid Long Island's power networking zone. Since Great Gatsby days, the Hamptons have attracted big money.

Last autumn's visit fell five months after Mr Davis awarded a National Lottery contract to Camelot, in which the American company GTech has a significant interest. Mr Menges' firm, Donaldson Lufkin & Jenrette has a large stake in GTech. Mr Menges, 65, said it was "totally coincidental" that his interests touched on an area supervised by his long-standing friend. "We invite the Davises to be our guests whenever they are here in America, and they invite us," he said. "She visited us even this year."

Mr and Mrs Davis were in New York at the end of a tour Mr Davis made of various lotteries in the United States. Mr Menges said he could not speak of Mr Davis's claimed discomfort about accepting his offer of a free ride in GTech's corporate helicopter from New York city to Long Island that weekend, or his use of a GTech jet to travel around the States on his business tour. However, Mr Menges emphasised that corporate aircraft are not uncommon in America. "It is seen as a legitimate method of meeting ongoing business appointments." The cities on Mr Davis's business itinerary were "not easy places to get to" by other means.

East Hampton, with its sister villages of South Hampton and West Hampton, is most popular in summer for the Atlantic breezes. On Friday afternoons prosperous New Yorkers migrate there. The A-graders avoid the traffic jams and travel by private aircraft. Others make the 100-mile trip by car, train, or join Lauren Bacall on the "Jitney" first-class bus service.

At a typical top-end drinks party, you will come across everyone from George Soros, the financier, to Tom Wolfe, the writer. Amid the beach-side, Arabian-style, air-conditioned marquees you can bump into Hollywood big timers such as Steven Spielberg and Kathleen Turner.

Although Mr Menges and his wife Cordelia invited the Davises as social friends, it is not unknown for New Yorkers to buy a house in the Hamptons as a business investment, using them to entertain commercial acquaintances and potential clients. Young Wall Street traders buy part-shares in summer villas to be close to the weekend power mingle. The Menges' East Hampton address — 2, Highway Behind the Pond — catches the island's faux-rustic appeal.

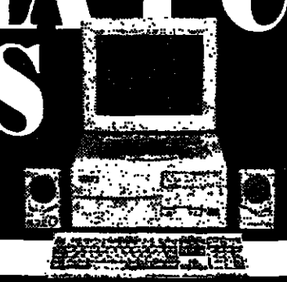
Mr Menges has worked for Donaldson Lufkin & Jenrette since 1963 and was posted to London to manage its international operation from 1973-77. Before DLJ he worked in the fibreglass industry. He lives on Manhattan's prosperous Upper East Side in the week.

The controversy over the National Lottery and GTech has gone practically unreported here and took him by surprise. "Britain ought to be proud of its lottery," he said yesterday. "It is hugely successful. This whole brouhaha is bizarre."

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Explorer abandons lone trek across Antarctica

By John Young

A BRITON has abandoned his attempt to become the first person to walk alone and unsupported across Antarctica because of equipment failure.

Roger Mear, 45, began the 1,700-mile journey six weeks ago, urged on by the knowledge that a Norwegian former commando, Borge Ousland, 33, planned to beat him to his goal. The race had been described as a sequel to the contest to reach the South Pole in 1911 between Captain Robert Scott and the victorious Roald Amundsen, in which all five of Scott's party died.

An experienced explorer who has travelled to Antarctica on five previous occasions, Mr Mear had hoped to raise funds for the Wilderness Trust, a charity based at Eastbourne, East Sussex, which campaigns for the survival of the world's remaining wild landscapes.

Diana Nielson, of the trust, said yesterday: "We had a message from Roger at midday on Saturday, saying: 'I have an emergency. Please get me out.' All we had was his position from his transmitter.

"Luckily the weather wasn't too bad, so a Twin Otter aircraft with guides and a doctor could land near by and rescue him. If he had not been found within a few hours, his life could have been threatened.

"It is terribly disappointing after all the preparation, but we are just glad Roger is safe and physically OK."

Last night the aircraft with Mr Mear aboard was reported to be delayed by bad weather and was not expected to arrive in Chile until this morning.



Mear: sent radio appeal to headquarters

Ms Nielson said it was not yet known what particular item of equipment had failed. Mr Mear was relying on a kite, known as a parawing, to help him to tow his sledge carrying 450lb of food and supplies, which he had hoped would enable him to travel up to 70 miles a day.

Charlie Burton, a veteran of a previous Antarctic expedition with Sir Ranulph Fiennes, said that Mr Mear's principal emotion would be disappointment.

"You choose the equipment and have to rely on it, but if you are travelling solo there is absolutely nothing you can do when it packs up," he said.

Before leaving Britain, Mr Mear had said that he hoped to experience a solitude that technology was about to make redundant.

"Next year you will be able to go anywhere on the globe and pick up a phone and dial," he said. "Mankind has never been in a situation where there is no isolation available, even as an idea."

On this occasion, however, technology in the shape of a small portable transmitter appears to have saved him from suffering the same fate as Captain Scott.

Pheasant guns seek moveable feast

By Edward Gorman

THE warmest autumn for centuries has prompted renewed calls for the pheasant shooting season to be lengthened after another poor opening of two months.

For generations the season has opened on October 1 and continued until February 1 and traditionalists who enjoy shooting game would be horrified to see the dates altered.

But the apparent shift in the timing of the onset of winter, which now usually does not take hold until well into this month and sometimes even January, means that many commercial and private shoots do not get going properly until late November.

In some areas of the country where hundreds of thousands of birds are put down for shooting every year, the "bag" or numbers shot on days early in the season have been so poor that syndicates have been forced to offer clients another free day later in the season.

Alan Brown, who manages the syndicate that shoots over the 1,200-acre Knebworth estate in Hertfordshire, believes there is now a compelling case to lengthen the season into February.

"I would say to those against it that if you want to finish shooting on February 1 that's perfectly fair," he said. "But on shoots where the birds are not ready by mid-November, they should be able to continue for a couple of weeks into February or even for the whole month." It is a view shared by Viscount Mountgarret, who does not allow shooting on his Yorkshire estate until the end of November at the earliest. "I'm one for shooting much later, and would be only too happy to see it go on into February a bit," he said. "Shooting in October is a miserable business and it should be banned," he added.



The pheasant may be at risk for longer

The warm autumnal weather delays the maturing of birds put down for shooting the previous summer. The birds also disperse in search of food and are reluctant to fly, dramatically reducing the numbers shot. Many birds shot early in the season have not "feathered-up" properly and make poor eating.

☐ Compassion in World Farming has called for urgent law changes to end the "widespread suffering" of millions of turkeys destined for the Christmas dinner table. The group says that 34 million turkeys slaughtered annually in Britain are hung by the feet from a moving line and dragged through an electrified water bath before having their throats cut.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Lawyers win right to plead for Briton

Two British barristers have been granted rights of audience to an American court to plead the case for a man sentenced to death for a double murder. Geoffrey Robertson, QC, and Phillip Sapsford, QC, are to argue on behalf of Krishna Maharaj as interested third parties at the Florida Supreme Court. The State of Florida had objected.

Maharaj, 56, was born in Trinidad but lived in London from 1960 to 1986, where he ran a fruit import business and became a racehorse owner. He was arrested on the night of the killings of Derrick Moo Young, 53, and his son Duane, 23, in a Miami hotel room in 1986 and convicted in 1987.

Silver lining

A hoard of 267 Roman silver coins uncovered in a field near Doncaster, South Yorkshire, has been bought for the town's museum, with help from several museums and galleries including the National Art Collections Fund and the Victoria and Albert Museum. The coins date from about the year 80.

Reckless streak

Police in Shropshire have condemned a group of students from an agricultural college who take their clothes off late at night and run around country lanes in the village of Edgmond. They say that the students from Harper Adams College, near Newport, could cause an accident.

Auction off

The sale of an ancient title was halted when Edward Hall, 47, contacted Manorial Auctioneers to say he was still Lord of Barton, North Yorkshire. Confusion arose after a previous holder's family tried to sell the title. Mr Hall's father bought it in 1950 at auction and passed it seven years ago.

Crime pub shuts

A south London pub that became the favourite watering hole of criminals including the Krays and the Richardsons is to be demolished. Magistrates refused to renew the licence of the St Helier Tavern in Carshalton after receiving a 500-signature petition from residents in the area.

Meningitis find

Durham County Health Commission has confirmed a new, "milder" form of meningitis — diagnosed as sub-type 2A of meningitis meningococcal C strain — involved in an outbreak in the area. A seven-week-old boy has died from meningitis in Newcastle upon Tyne, the fourth in the North East this month.

Gypsies clash

Three people were taken to hospital with gunshot wounds to the face and another with a stab wound to the chest after rival gypsy families fought a running battle between Banbridge and Newry, Co Down, and Lisburn, Co Antrim. At one stage the gypsies chased each other in cars along the A1.

Solo spot

A one-man choir led the carols at a parish church in Northumberland last night and will be on duty again at midnight Mass on Christmas Eve. For 16 years David Nichol, 64, a tenor, has been the only member of a choir that was 36 strong when he joined in 1939 at St John Lee's in the village of Acomb.

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Film shows Rabin assassin talked to police before firing

BY CHRISTOPHER WALKER

FILM taken of the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin on November 4 raises as many questions as it answers, according to a small group of Israeli journalists permitted to view the videotape at the weekend.

The film, shot from a nearby rooftop by a 37-year-old Tel Aviv man whose identity is being kept secret, shows the self-confessed assassin, Yigal Amir, talking to the police, then appearing to hide behind a potted plant two minutes before the shooting. The existence of the videotape was covered up by the authorities until last week.

Among the questions being asked yesterday were why the mystery cameraman had focused on the 25-year-old killer for two minutes before the shooting; what was the identity of the man seen talking to the assassin before the killing and patting him on the shoulder; why the cameraman spent one and a half hours filming events leading up to the killing in a dark parking lot, if he did not know in advance something would happen; and why he was not prevented from filming by the many security men around Kings of Israel Square.

The lack of any good answers to the questions raised by the film, which will play a main part in the Tel Aviv trial of Mr Amir due to open tomorrow, has intensified the mass of conspiracy theories circulating in political and media circles about the murder and the possible link with the Israeli security forces.

"The film raises many questions," said Michael Doron of Israel Television, one of those who viewed it and later described the contents as horrifying. Rafi Rashef, an Israel Television anchorman who also saw the film, which the authorities have refused to allow to be screened publicly, said: "It is amazing that the cameraman chose to focus on Yigal Amir [for] something like two minutes before the assassination."

Mr Reshef, who attended a private viewing along with the mystery cameraman who turned in one copy to the police four weeks ago, but kept another he is now trying sell for more than $100,000 (£66,000), added: "You see him [Amir] standing behind a plant with his hands, I think, behind his back."

Mr Reshef, who added to the confusion by claiming that the cameraman had given reasons why he had focused on the assassin in advance but had banned their mention in public, said: "It is a shocking, painful, astounding and enraging film. They [the authorities] tried to portray a sophisticated assassin, but it seems like any child could have approached Rabin and committed the murder."

Mr Rabin's widow, Leah, 67, told Israel army radio: "I did not know the murder of Yitzhak Rabin was documented by video. And, of course, I do not want to see these pictures. It is hard enough for me to deal with what has happened." She added that she still did not understand why the Shin Bet bodyguards told her after the shooting with three dumdum bullets — two of which struck Mr Rabin — that the Prime Minister was shot with blanks.

CHRIS HARRIS



Arafat posters and seasonal messages greet visitors as Bethlehem prepares for what is intended to be the first Palestinian-run Christmas

Bethlehem protests as Israelis delay pullout

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN BETHLEHEM

ELIAS FREIJ, the Christian Mayor of Bethlehem, yesterday attacked Israel's decision not to pull its occupation army out of the town today as pledged. He said that it endangered plans to celebrate the first Palestinian-run Christmas in the spot where Jesus is believed to have been born.

As Israeli troops continued to patrol Manger Square and occupy the fortress-style police station overlooking the 4th-century Church of the Nativity, Israeli officials said the pullout had been postponed until Thursday to enable completion of a road to carry Jewish settlers to Kiryat Arba near Hebron and other outposts which will remain under Israeli control.

"I am disappointed. This is a wrong decision that will make it extremely hard for me to organise security precautions with the hundreds of Palestinian policemen who are coming to supervise Christmas Eve celebrations," Mr Freij said. Western diplomatic sources said that the delay, approved by Shimon Peres, the Prime Minister, was bad international publicity for the Israeli Government at a time when world media attention is focused on the biblical West Bank town where residents had planned massive celebrations today to mark the departure of the last Israeli soldier.

Mr Freij, who will be hosting Yassir Arafat, the Palestine Liberation Organisation leader, on his first visit to the town on either Christmas Eve or Christmas Day, said: "There is no logical reason for this move. The statement about the settlers' road is just an excuse."

The refusal of the Israelis to leave, as agreed in their original peace timetable with the PLO, has soured the Christmas mood in the town, where thousands of pictures of Mr Arafat are hanging among more conventional Christmas decorations. "It seems as though the Jews are just letting us know they do not care anything for Christmas," said the owner of a shop selling Christmas trees opposite a heavily guarded Israeli military post.

Israeli sources said the delay was ordered after a pledge to leaders of Jewish settlements that all security arrangements for their continued travel on roads likely to become the front line of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict had been ensured. Benjamin Ben-Eliezer, the Housing Minister, assured settlers last night that the road would be completed by Wednesday.

Mr Freij expects about 50,000 visitors for the traditional midnight Mass on Christmas Eve. It will be broadcast this year by Palestinian, rather than Israeli, television to a world audience of 500 million.

Golan plea by Syria

SYRIA yesterday urged Israel to take practical steps towards withdrawal from the Golan Heights to boost the peace talks due to resume next week near Washington after a break of six months (Christopher Walker writes). Any agreement will be followed by peace between Israel and most of the Gulf Arab states.

The reopening of the talks was a diplomatic breakthrough for Warren Christopher, the US Secretary of State, who yesterday reported on the implications for the Arab world to President Mubarak of Egypt before returning to the United States at the end of his fifteenth and most successful trip to the Middle East. He will return on about January 10 to begin a new round of shuttle diplomacy between Jerusalem and Damascus.

"It is important not to waste the chance of the resumption of the talks to achieve a just and comprehensive peace." *Tishrin*, the official Damascus daily newspaper, said. "Achieving peace needs practical Israeli actions and a commitment to all international legitimacy resolutions."

Encouraged by the recent Bosnia peace deal, American officials said similar negotiating tactics would be used in the Israel-Syria talks.

Yemen and Eritrea battle for Red Sea islands

FROM MOHAMMAD SUDAM IN SANAA

YEMEN and Eritrea fought a fierce battle yesterday with warships and aircraft over disputed islands in the Red Sea.

Yemeni military sources said the Eritreans were firing at Yemeni positions on the island of Greater Hanish. The sources said Yemen had suffered dead and wounded in the fighting, which started last Friday, but gave no figures. However, at least 12 wounded Yemeni soldiers were seen in one ward at a hospital in Sanaa, the Yemeni capital, and hospital sources said there were more. They added that some Yemenis had been killed in the fighting. There was no immediate word on Eritrean casualties.

An official Yemeni statement yesterday accused Eritrean troops of "treacherous aggression and piracy . . . violating territorial waters and threatening security, stability and international shipping in the Red Sea area".

The disputed Greater and Lesser Hanish islands, are close to the Red Sea's southern entrance. Yemen has had troops stationed there for several years and plans to promote the area as a tourist attraction. The two states enjoyed good relations until the flare-up of fighting last week. *(Reuter)*

WORLD SUMMARY

Rushdie involved in crash

Sydney: Salman Rushdie, who is visiting Australia to promote his latest book, escaped serious injury last night when his car was in collision with a lorry (Roger Maynard writes).

The accident involving Mr Rushdie, who for the past six years has lived under a death sentence ordered by Iran's late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini for his novel, *The Satanic Verses*, happened on a generally safe stretch of road at Milton, near Ulladulla, on the south coast of New South Wales. The writer and two companions suffered minor injuries but were released from hospital.

Mr Rushdie, who is on tour to publicise *The Moor's Last Sigh*, appeared not to be accompanied by a bodyguard.

Surgery raises smile for girl

Los Angeles: After complex surgery, a girl aged seven who had been unable to smile since birth managed her first lopsided grin (Giles Whittell writes). Chelsea Thomas, born with a rare condition known as Moebius syndrome that gave her a perpetually grumpy look, underwent an eight-hour operation to have a muscle and nerve from her leg transplanted into the side of her face. It was the first of two such procedures that doctors hope will enable her to smile.

Factory blaze fumes kill two

Johannesburg: Two people died and thousands were forced to flee homes near Somerset West in the Western Cape yesterday as clouds of sulphur dioxide gas were produced by a fire at a chemical factory (Inigo Gilmore writes). Police said a bush fire ignited a sulphur stockpile the size of two rugby fields at the AECI chemical factory and strong winds quickly spread the gas.

Prince agrees to be exiled

Phnom Penh: Prince Norodom Sirivudh, half-brother of King Norodom Sihanouk of Cambodia, agreed to exile to avoid trial on charges concerning an alleged assassination plot against Hun Sen, the joint Prime Minister. The Prince, who denies the charges, has been held at the Interior Ministry. *(Reuter)*

US Government is hit by second budget shutdown

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

DESPITE calls by both sides to resume talks, Democrats led by President Clinton remained at odds with Republicans yesterday over balancing the federal budget, causing the second partial shutdown of government within a month.

To the disgust and bemusement of many Americans, thousands of civil servants were due to report for work this morning, only to be sent home again because a stop-gap spending Bill negotiated last month had expired. Shutdown No. 2 started over the weekend in Washington with the now familiar closure of museums, monuments and the zoo, all normally thronged with visitors at this time of year.

At issue is whether government social policies, which have been developed over the last 30 years, can be sustained or should be curbed. It is beginning to look as if these momentous issues cannot be decided during an argument over a balanced budget and might better be dealt with as important themes for next year's election.

With a Democrat still in the White House, Republicans who won control of Congress a year ago have found they do not have the veto-proof majority they need to ram through a retrenchment of government's role.

However, an election fought as a referendum on the controversy might put one party in control of both institutions and end the stalemate.

A suggestion that leans towards this outcome was made, surprisingly, by Robert Dole, Republican leader in the Senate and front-runner for his party's presidential nomination. He said the sides should merely finance the Government for one year rather than continue fighting over a balanced budget within seven years.

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Austrian electors stifle ambitions of pro-Nazi leader

FROM MICHAEL KALLENBACH IN VIENNA

AUSTRIA'S far-right populist, Jörg Haider, failed to make any great impact during yesterday's elections, paving the way for the Socialists under Franz Vranitzsky, the Chancellor, to form another grand coalition with their conservative People's Party rivals.

According to television predictions after polling ended, the Socialists took more than 37 per cent of the vote, the People's Party 28 per cent, and Herr Haider's Freedom Party received 23 per cent, a mere 1 per cent increase on last year. Both the Greens and Liberals hovered round 4 per cent, the minimum for representation in parliament.

Many Austrians were relieved that Herr Haider's bid for a leading role in government was crushed, but he is only 45 and unlikely to give up politics. He will certainly be highly visible in opposition.

During the campaign Herr Vranitzsky ruled out any coalition with the Freedom Party, though the Socialists left this question open. With the slogan *Raus Aus der EU* (Out of the EU), Herr Haider raised fears with his anti-foreigner rhetoric, arguing that, without foreigners, Austria would be wealthier and have less crime.

Before the end of the country's most acrimonious post-war campaign, Herr Haider had been seen on an amateur video embracing former Waffen SS members and Nazi war criminals as "decent men of good character". Austrian TV stations kept aloof from the controversy, for fear of being accused of influencing voters. Instead it was left to the German ARD network to unearth some of the truths about where Herr Haider's sympathies lie.

It is not known how the video was obtained, but it shows Herr Haider being treated as a mini-hero during a clandestine gathering of Nazi sympathisers from all over Europe in Ulrichsberg, about 180 miles west of Vienna, last October.

Addressing the former Nazis as *liebe Freunde* (dear friends), he said he was happy there were still "decent people" in the world today who had enough strength of character to stand by their convictions and what they believed in. This, he said, remained a solid foundation for younger Austrians to build on. Herr Haider, whose parents were Nazis, complained that Austria had money to waste on terrorists and aggressive newspapers "but not for decent people".

The media were barred from the Ulrichsberg meeting, but the video shows Herr Haider opening his remarks regretting that he was unable to speak more openly about his beliefs. Among those present were leading figures from the right-wing movement, among them reportedly the daughter of SS leader, Heinrich Himmler.

Herr Haider appeared unconcerned by the video's release. He blamed the Socialists and People's Party — who have governed in a grand coalition under Herr Vranitzky and Wolfgang Schüssel, the conservative Foreign Minister — for spreading unfavourable propaganda. However, the Austrian press used the video as the final straw to convince voters to steer clear of Herr Haider. Even the normally right-wing *Kurier* said in an editorial yesterday that Herr Haider's speech in Ulrichsberg made him a direct "son and heir" of the old Nazi regime. "There is nothing *neo* about Jörg Haider," said the paper. "Whoever gives him the vote or forms a political partnership with him has no excuse."

Yesterday's elections, with 5.1 million Austrians eligible to vote, was the second in two years and was caused by an austerity budget which prompted the conservatives to walk out of the coalition.



Jörg Haider with his wife Claudia and daughter Ulrike after voting yesterday. Exit polls showed his People's Party trailing in third place

Greek PM hit by new infection

FROM REUTER IN ATHENS

THE Greek Prime Minister, Andreas Papandreou, who has been on life-support systems for a month, was in a critical condition in hospital last night and waging a "titanic battle" against a new secondary infection.

A hospital bulletin said doctors were uncertain where the infection was coming from and were using a range of antibiotics to fight it.

"In the past 12 hours, his condition is unchanged. He is supported sporadically by a respirator. He does not have any fever and is still on antibiotics," a statement said.

The new secondary infection struck on Saturday and doctors said the next 24 hours were critical. Mr Papandreou, 76, was still undergoing regular dialysis for his failed kidneys.

"The Prime Minister is fighting for his life and his doctors are waging a titanic battle," said George Lianis, the Sports Minister, after visiting the Athens hospital at the weekend. Mr Lianis is the cousin of Mr Papandreou's wife, Mimi, 40.

Neither doctors nor prominent Socialists hold out much hope of Mr Papandreou, elected Greece's first Socialist leader in 1981, ever returning to his official duties.

Store bomb blast death in Valencia

FROM EDWARD OWEN IN MADRID

ONE woman was killed and nine people were injured when a bomb exploded in a crowded department store in Valencia, eastern Spain, at the weekend. The bomb was the only one of five planted in the store by Eta, the Basque terrorist group, to go off.

The blast came at 3pm on Saturday when the store was thronged with Christmas shoppers. The targeting of the public rather than the security services marks a new development in Eta's latest bombing campaign.

The bombing is unlikely to affect the plans of Felipe González, the Spanish Prime Minister, who is expected to announce today that he will stand for a seventh consecutive time in the general election called for next March. The early poll was precipitated by accusations that he helped to form death squads that killed 27 Basque terror suspects a decade ago.

If the scandal forces his resignation, his most likely successor as Socialist Party leader would have been Javier Solana, the Foreign Minister, who starts work as Nato's Secretary-General this week. Señor Solana's replacement should be Carlos Westendorp, Secretary of State for European Affairs.

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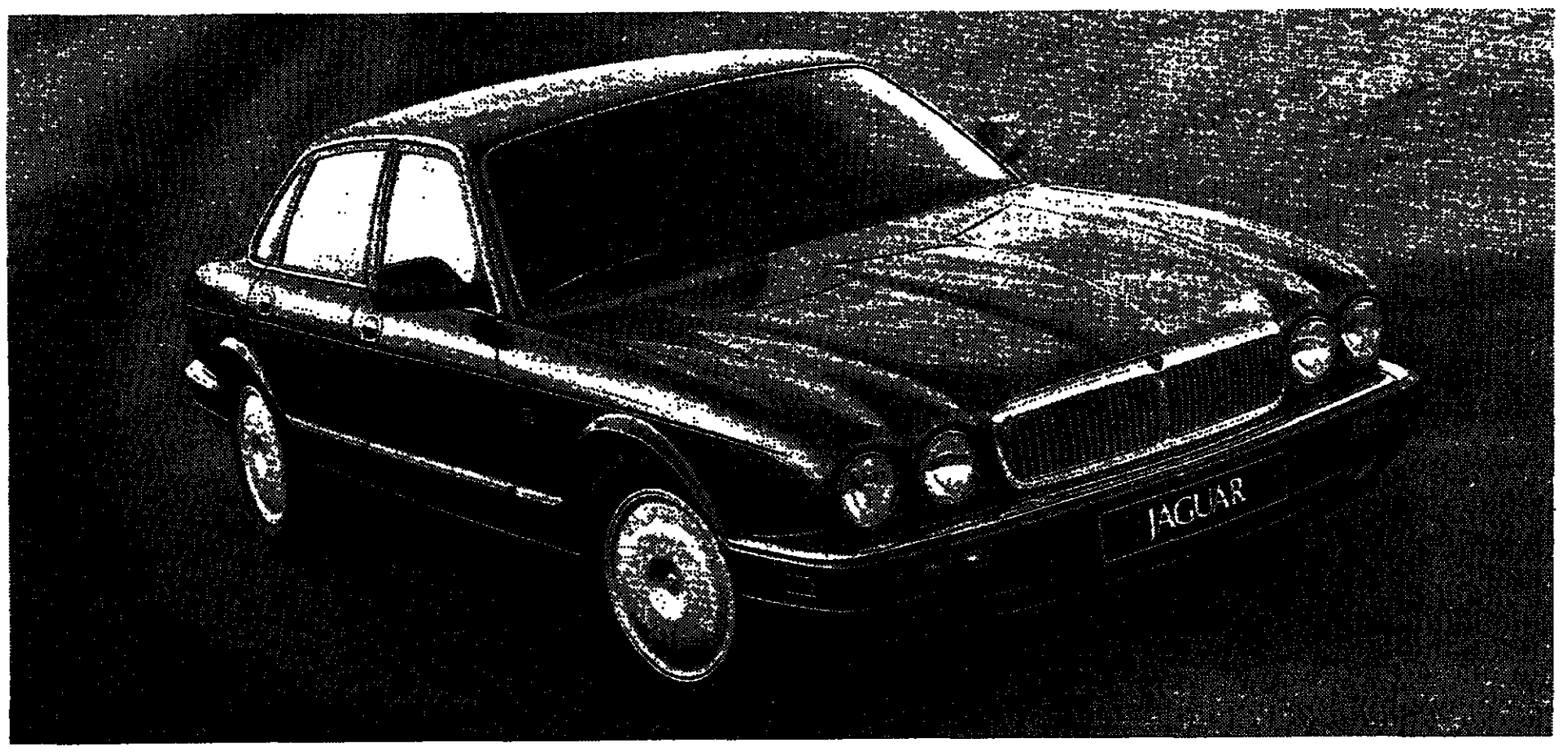
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'During the conflict, at least my relations were close ... In peace, they are further away than ever'

Bosnian brothers endure agony of a family at war

FROM ANTHONY LOYD IN DONJI VAKUF, CENTRAL BOSNIA

A YEAR lay between the signing of the Dayton agreement and the time I had last seen the Bosnian fighter, and the weight of the intervening days was etched deeply in his sunken eyes and lined face.

He began to speak slowly, tapping the stump of his left leg against the shin of his right leg, turning a woman's silver bracelet in the palm of his hand. Outside, thick snow lay on the pitted streets of Donji Vakuf, deserted apart from a group of thin children whose cries could be heard clearly in the fifth-floor flat in which we were seated.

The war divided many families, but it was particularly cruel for Srdan. Born as one of five brothers to a Muslim mother and Serb father in this town in central Bosnia-Herzegovina, he fled his birthplace when the conflict started in 1992 and, with his younger brother, was among the first to volunteer for the government army in nearby Bugojno.

"My father told us: 'Get out of here before it is too late'. So we left," Srdan said. "I felt that as I was a Bosnian I should fight for Bosnia. Perhaps the others would have joined us too, but someone rang the Serb troops in Donji Vakuf to say we had joined the government army, and as soon as they heard no one else could leave."

His parents and three brothers stayed behind. The middle brother was mentally handicapped, but the other two were conscripted into the Bosnian Serb Army whose troops took over Donji Vakuf as the sporadic firefights between the two towns grew into full-scale fighting. As the war progressed, the brothers heard news of each other from the conversations of comrades shouted across the front lines at night, although they never had the chance to talk to each other. "I am pleased that we never spoke one to one," Srdan added, "the trauma would have been too much."

In September 1993, Srdan's left foot was blown off by a mine. A little over a year later I met him for the first time as his army gained its first real victory, seizing the town of Kupres from the Serbs, before pushing on towards Donji Vakuf. At the time it seemed likely that this town would also fall and, sitting in a gloomy flat in Bugojno, Srdan was desperate that his injury prevented him from being among the first Bosnian troops, a position that might have enabled him to save his family.

Yet Donji Vakuf did not fall until September this year, ten months after Kupres, during the massive two-month joint Muslim-Croat offensive that pushed the Serbs back on several fronts. By this time Srdan, although crippled, had managed to rejoin his brigade as a courier for the headquarters wearing a prosthetic foot, and managed to follow the first troops into the town.

"It was September 13, early in the morning, that the army entered the town. I stumbled up the stairs to my parents' flat," he said quietly, staring fixedly at the wall before him. "The door was open and the flat empty. On the floor lay a bracelet. It was my mother's, given to her 12 years before. Her rings and necklace lay around it. I grabbed the bracelet and a small picture of my parents that was still on the wall and ran crying through the streets.

"I asked every soldier I saw if they had seen my parents — no one had. I went to the prison to see if any of my family were among the captives — they were not. I went to a place where the Serbs had killed twenty civilians as they withdrew, to see if my people were among them, but I recognised nobody."

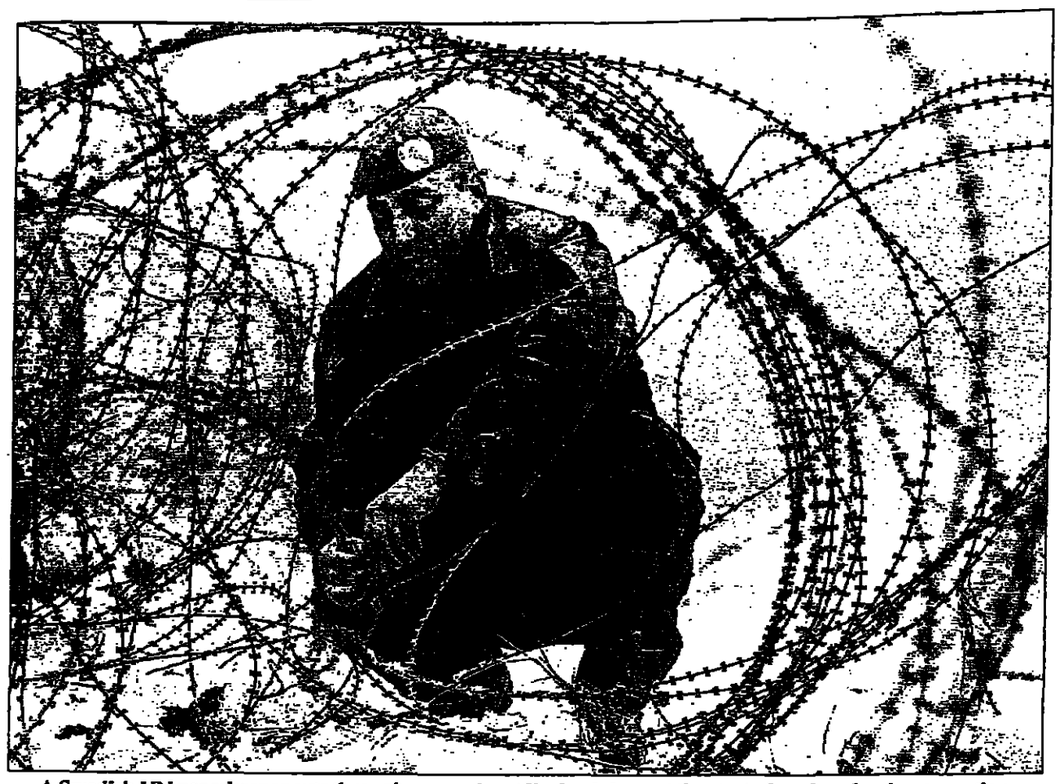
He saw only the body of a Serb neighbour he had known, lying dead on the pavement. "He was a good man. He had never done anything wrong. Someone told me that he was drunk and wandered out of a cellar in front of our infantry. They shot him."

Later that day a Muslim man who had stayed in the town told Srdan that his family had hidden in the loft of the block of flats in an attempt to stay in the town. However, a Serb special unit had found them there and forced them to leave. His mother had struggled with the troops as she collected a bag from her home, losing her jewellery.

Srdan moved into his parents' flat a few days later with his wife and young son. A fortnight later he received word from an uncle in Austria who had heard that his parents were alive and among Serb refugees in Banja Luka. He has heard nothing since.

He sits in an armchair and stares at the wall. Exacerbated by movement and the crudity of his false foot, Srdan's wound is getting worse and severely restricts his ability to walk. He smiles from time to time, but the expression is of profound sadness more than anything else. Few in Bosnia believe the refugees will ever be able to return, despite the terms of the Dayton accord.

"When there was war at least I knew that my family, though across the front lines, were in our home and close," he said. "Now there is peace and they are further away from me than ever. So I sit in my father's armchair and I wait. I wait for the day that they shall return. It is all I can do and all I can believe in."



A Swedish UN peacekeeper cuts through razor wire at Tuzla air base at the start of a mine-clearing operation

Russia rules out asylum

Moscow: Andrei Kozyrev, Russia's Foreign Minister, said Moscow had no plans to offer asylum to General Ratko Mladic, the Bosnian Serb commander, to protect him from prosecution for war crimes, the Interfax news agency reported. Mr Kozyrev was responding to a *Sunday Times* report of such an offer. *(Reuter)*

Fog delays US troop arrival in Tuzla

FROM STACY SULLIVAN IN TUZLA

THE arrival of 800 American troops in Bosnia, who had hoped to start their mission with an impressive show of force, was thwarted by bad weather for the third day yesterday as fog continued to shroud the Tuzla airstrip.

As planes loomed overhead in a holding pattern waiting for the fog to clear, hundreds of journalists lined the airstrip and waited outside the base to see the American C130s touch down.

There were propeller sounds. There were plane-shaped shadows. On Saturday, some planes even broke through the cloud cover. But there were no landings, at least in Tuzla. One flight carrying troops and equipment was successfully diverted to Sarajevo.

The deployment of some 20,000 Americans, who will be part of a 60,000-strong Nato peace implementation force, has been crippled by the fog. "The weather has got us by the neck," said one US Army serviceman, Sergeant Hank Minitrez.

A US-installed radar screen at Tuzla that should enable aircraft to land in adverse weather conditions panned the sky. The equipment is ready to operate but, according to US regulations, its calibration must be approved by the Federal Aviation Administration. "The FAA guy is on the plane," Sergeant Minitrez said.

In a combat situation, the planes would have landed long ago, Major Ryan Yantis said, adding that the American planes could swoop over the runway and drop equipment and even armoured fighting vehicles in padded wooden pallets. "But this is not an emergency. We are not going to risk lives to get people here," he said.

US soldiers have been shuttling journalists from the air base entrance to the airstrip. "It's a bit like hauling cattle," Sergeant Minitrez said.

As photographers stood on the snow-covered base, they did finally get a piece of action. A puppy roaming on the airstrip was rescued by Major Yantis before the animal could wander across the mined fields. "What kind of dog is it?" yelled one journalist. "A publicity hound?"

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Currency decision underlines Kohl's hold on Europe

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN MADRID

EUROPE'S leaders descend to the chilly realities of December today from a Spanish summit where, under firm German guidance, they fixed a calendar for their new currency and the birth of a Continent-wide Union.

The relief was palpable when the Madrid gathering managed to put aside the habitual squabbles enough to set a timetable for the millennium, enabling some leaders to claim a triumph over the doom-mongers whose views have been reinforced by the strikes in France. President Chirac, who spent the weekend in a feud with Lamberto Dini, the Italian Prime Minister, said the accords in Madrid gave the lie to a public increasingly "sceptical and aggressive towards Europe".

> 'Leaders ignored the warnings by Major of folly and lemmings'

Jacques Santer, the President of the European Commission, said: "I wanted the summit to prove the sceptics wrong. It did." He said there was no turning back from the birth of the euro, the German-devised name the leaders bestowed on the currency, which is to be born on January 1, 1999. Turning a deaf ear to John Major's talk of "lemmings" and "folly", the champions of the euro proclaimed its launch to be "irreversible".

However, the leaders did reclassify the new money as "the European currency", dropping the "single" in acceptance of the reality, emphasised by the Prime Minister, that only a minority of states could hope to qualify for initial membership. Mr Major's warnings of potential monetary chaos were drowned out by the consensus favouring the onward passage of the euro convoy. More than ever, the might of Germany shaped the outcome of a summit.

After bulldozing through the euro name with British and Spanish support, Herr Kohl, the Chancellor, prevailed on reluctant members to accept a timetable for starting the entry of states of the former Soviet bloc, a step which will transform the nature of the Union. The summit instructed the Commission to give an opinion on the readiness of each of the Central and Eastern European countries. The leaders will then decide which are advanced enough to start entry talks within six months of the close of the Maastricht treaty review in mid-1997. The Union is already committed to starting negotiations then with Cyprus and Malta, but had hitherto given only a vague promise to the others.

Herr Kohl is determined to ensure that Poland is brought as quickly as possible into the Union — with Hungary and the Czech Republic — but the summit declaration lumped all the candidates together. These include Bulgaria, Romania, Slovakia, Estonia and Lithuania. Latvia and the Czechs are expected to apply soon, along with Slovenia.

The leaders avoided the touchy subject of what reforms are needed when they set March 29 as the starting date for the inter-governmental conference and Turin as the place. Britain stands alone against its 14 partners in refusing any reduction of its veto power or any extension of the authority of the Commission or the European Parliament.

هكذا من الاصل

How Western promises failed to kill off Russia's dream of past glories

After this weekend's elections, the world will be faced with a Russia determined to restore its strategic influence, writes ***Jonathan Eyal***

Despite all the claims to the contrary, no Western leader ever believed that Russian democracy was a serious proposition. Indeed, support for President Yeltsin is based on the assumption that he is the only man able to ignore the wishes of his parliament and, by implication, those of the Russian electorate.

From this perspective, Western governments may be right in ignoring the Russian parliamentary elections, since the parliament has few real powers, apart from the ability to generate a great deal of hot air. Furthermore, the expected surge in the vote for the Communists is a Europe-wide phenomenon. Finally, even if the result is "unfortunate", as many Western politicians privately expect, there is little that anyone can do about it.

Nevertheless, the elections are a clear indication that Western policies to encourage economic reform and partnership with Moscow have failed. Instead of a more co-operative and benign partner, the world will be faced with a morose Russia, neither pleasant nor pliant, and determined to restore its strategic influence at all costs.

In the words of Grigori Yavlinsky, a leading reformer, the 43 political movements involved in the elections promised everything "apart from the restoration of virginity": lower taxes and prices and higher salaries and pensions featured in all their platforms.

Unremarkable, since elections everywhere are littered with similar promises. Yet Russia is different. In all the countries of Eastern Europe, political parties were quickly formed after the collapse of communism and many have survived. In Russia, however, parties are created just before an election and just as quickly disappear. Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Prime Minister, founded his own movement only recently, having spent his time in office pretending to be above politics.

Stripped of their pretences, these elections amounted to little more than a tussle between a handful of politicians, former army generals, comedians, madmen and faith healers. The computers which now tally the votes are controlled by the old KGB, a sure sign of Russian-style impartiality. Finally, Russian elections merely legitimise a transfer of power that has already taken place.

Many Russians believe that the disintegration of the Soviet Union is a disaster that should be put right as soon as possible and that the West's promises of co-operation are ruses meant to keep Russia weak.

The only dispute between politicians is whether the re-creation of a Soviet sphere of influence should be accomplished by force soon, or through persuasion and economic pressure over time. It is a serious distinction, but without much difference for countries likely to receive Moscow's attentions.

Of much greater significance is the expected return of the Communists to parliament in great numbers. In Russia, this is again quite different from the case in the rest of Eastern Europe, where communism was imposed from outside after the Second World War.

In Russia, however, communism was home-grown and is associated with a period when the Soviet Union was either respected or feared. The West never had much chance of influencing Russia's internal developments. Nevertheless, much of Western policy was based on the belief that precisely the reverse was the case.

In fact, the new parliament is guaranteed to be more anti-Western despite all the international efforts at appeasement. And for a simple reason: what the West has to offer, photo-opportunities and interminable conferences, is no longer interesting for Russia. And what Russia wants — influence, strategic space, games of balance of power — the West has not been prepared to contemplate.

But the dialogue of the deaf between the West and Russia is now likely to end. Moscow will be ruled by people who not only want to be considered as representatives of a great power, but who fully expect to exact the necessary price for future co-operation.

☐ *The author is director of studies at the Royal United Services Institute in London.*

Embittered nation opts for certainties of the Soviet era

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW AND ANATOL LIEVEN IN VLADIVOSTOK

THE strength of the Communist showing in yesterday's election was evident at polling stations from Moscow to Vladivostok. Many Communist supporters were embittered pensioners, who have suffered worst under the painful transition of Russia's economy to the free market.

"I am voting Communist because we deserve to be treated better," said Boris Mavrin, a former senior Soviet official, who voted at a school off Moscow's Leninsky Prospekt. "The Government does nothing to help the poor or fight crime. Life was better under the Communists."

Valentina Zurbinska, a well-known pianist and composer, agreed and looked back fondly on the Soviet era. "We don't want Russia turned into a second America," she said.

Although their sentiments are echoed across the country, the ability of the Communists to capitalise on this support may well depend on how other parties do in the election. With the centrist Our Home is Russia faction of Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Prime Minister, and the liberal Yabloko party of Grigori Yavlinsky expected to pass easily the minimum 5 per cent barrier to secure a place in the assembly, the Communists will have to work closely with other opposition groups to challenge the Government.

The two other parties likely to secure a sizeable share of the vote are Vladimir Zhirinovsky's ultra-nationalist Liberal Democrats and the Congress of Russian Communities of General Aleksandr Lebed. Both men have made it clear that they intend to run for the presidency and have shown little inclination to work alongside the Communists under the leadership of Gennadi Zyuganov, who is their potential rival.

"I have no questions for ordinary Communists," said General Lebed. "But I have many questions for the Central Committee of the Communist Party. They broke up the country ... we will deal with them."

In the Russian Far East, where the turnout was unexpectedly high at 62 per cent, an exit poll jointly carried out by *The Times* and a local newspaper showed Yabloko in first place, well ahead of the Communists, with the Liberal Democratic Party third.

Then came another extreme nationalist group, Derzhava, headed by General Aleksandr Rutskoi, the former Vice-President and leader of the 1993 parliamentary revolt.

The isolated and impoverished small towns of the east are naturally inclined to vote for Communist and nationalist parties. However, Yabloko looks certain to emerge as by far the biggest liberal party.

Although General Lebed is widely tipped as a formidable challenger to President Yeltsin if presidential elections are held as scheduled next June, his bloc seems likely to be disappointed by the results in the Far East. It had hoped to use General Lebed's military prestige to pick up the votes of the many servicemen in the region; in Vladivostok, at least, they seem to have voted for General Rutskoi or Mr Zhirinovsky.

Yebor Nikolaevica, a pensioner, said: "We know what Rutskoi stands for, and how he stood by his principles in 1993."

Mr Chernomyrdin's Our Home is Russia seems to have done even worse in the Far East than predicted. Ilya Grinchenko, an analyst, said: said: "A key aspect of voting here is people's feelings of being treated like a colony. They are always ready to vote against whoever is in power in Moscow." Since the local governor abandoned him, the Prime Minister has lacked a strong local figure to rally support.

Leading article, page 17



A voter in central Moscow makes her choice under the gaze of a Lenin statue as elections for the Russian parliament were held yesterday

THE PARTIES

Communist Party: Far left-wing party advocating a change to economic reforms, including more state protection for industry and slower privatisation. Led by Gennadi Zyuganov.

Our Home is Russia: Centre-right bloc created last April with President Yeltsin's blessing. Led by Viktor Chernomyrdin.

Liberal Democratic Party: Ultra-nationalist party which enjoyed surprise success in the last election. Led by Vladimir Zhirinovsky.

Congress of Russian Communities: Nationalist group which has emerged as a strong challenger under popular General Aleksandr Lebed and Yuri Skokov.

Agrarian Party: Left-wing group whose main constituency is rural. Its leader is Mikhail Lapshin.

Yabloko: Liberal party which promises more reforms. Led by Grigori Yavlinsky.

Women of Russia: Centre-left women's group formed mainly by former Communists. It supports moderate reforms. Led by Alevtina Fedulova.

Derzhava: Nationalist party with name meaning Great Power. Led by Aleksandr Rutskoi.

Power to the People: New left-wing party with nationalist tendencies. Led by former Soviet Prime Minister, Nikolai Ryzhkov.

Russia's Choice: Liberal party pressing for faster market reforms, led by economist Yegor Gaidar.

Ivan Rybkin's Bloc: A centre-left bloc headed by the Duma chairman, Ivan Rybkin.

Forward Russia!: Liberal party espousing market reforms. Led by Boris Fyodorov.

Workers' Self-Government Party: New centrist party led by ophthalmic surgeon and presidential hopeful Svyatoslav Fyodorov.

Twin-track system complicates ballot

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

WHEN polling stations opened across Russia yesterday for parliamentary elections, the balloting set into motion one of the most physically challenging and mentally taxing operations in the history of democracy.

Tens of millions of voters spread over 11 time zones, from the Baltic to the Pacific, were expected to cast ballots in 94,000 stations scattered across the world's largest country. Braving sub-zero temperatures or fighting in Chechenia was only the first hurdle. Once inside polling stations, voters were met with a bewildering choice of candidates and parties in what is regarded as one of the most complex electoral systems anywhere.

In the election for the Duma, or lower house, the electorate votes for two halves of one assembly. Half of the members of the 450-seat chamber are elected from single-member constituencies, and the other half from candidates on party lists. Voters are given two ballot papers, one for a local MP and another for a nationwide vote. The dual system leads to strange results. Many voters can opt for a popular local candidate but support a rival party in the national ballot.

There are 2,687 candidates for single-seat constituencies, which range from densely populated Moscow to Siberia, where one constituency is nearly the size of Western Europe. Parties competing in the national vote must win at least 5 per cent of the vote to qualify for parliament. The system, intended to weed out fringe parties, has been called undemocratic, since all the parties who make it into parliament automatically secure a far higher percentage of seats than their share of the vote.

However, under Russia's 1993 constitution, the real power lies in the hands of the President, who often rules by decree.

Rebels fight on as Chechen polls shut

FROM REUTER IN GROZNY

A BLOODY revolt against Russia's attempt to hold elections in Chechenia raged for a fourth day yesterday, although Moscow claimed a high turnout and a valid vote.

There were few people on the streets of Grozny, the capital, and fighting continued in Gudermes, the republic's second town. The Chechen election commission said, however, that 70 per cent of voters had cast their ballots by 11am. Polling began on Thursday.

The Moscow-backed authorities closed the polling stations at 3pm, five hours earlier than in the rest of Russia, and began counting ballots, Tass reported.

"The elections are taking place and in the Chechen republic are going ahead at full speed," President Yeltsin told reporters after casting his vote in the Moscow clinic where he is recovering from a heart condition.

Russian television showed rebels in the mountains resisting the poll. "We're defending ourselves, we're on our own land," said a woman holding a grenade launcher. However, the report said turnout in the lowlands was high. It showed a queue at a polling station and an old Russian woman waiting to vote. "It's important, everyone must come. We're in the Soviet Union after all," she said.

Oleg Lobov, President Yeltsin's special envoy in Chechenia, cast his vote in Grozny's fortified airport with Doku Zavgayev, the head of Chechenia's Moscow-backed government. He said the turnout was almost 70 per cent. Mr Zavgayev, who is assured of victory in the leadership contest after his main competitors pulled out saying it was a fraud, said that the election was "a remarkable event".



Zavgayev: assured of personal poll victory



Zyuganov: attacked by rivals for presidency

Food and folk tunes reel in voters

FROM THOMAS DE WAAL IN MYTISHCHI

MUSIC was pouring through the open door of the theatre in the Mytishchi Palace of Culture into the foyer-turned-polling-station of district No 1405. Just as in Communist days, a folk music concert had been laid on to attract voters.

Voting was heavy. A crowd of mostly elderly people, disciplined to come out to vote in the old days, were queuing up. They mostly said they were voting for two parties that conducted the most low-key television campaigns, the Communist Party and Yabloko, led by Grigori Yavlinsky, the young reform economist.

After they cast their ballot, voters browsed at the stall selling fish and cold chicken, ducked into the concert or chatted with neighbours. The mood was brisk and festive.

The party ballot paper, the size of a broadsheet page with 43 electoral blocs on it, was difficult to hold, let alone read in full. An electoral official carefully guided an old man in a black fur hat to the neo-Fascist National Republican Party, halfway down the list.

Mytishchi is one of a belt of towns north of Moscow with rusting factories, growing unemployment and a high crime rate. Its first deputy in the local first-past-the-post election, Andrei Aizderdzis, a businessman, was shot by a hired killer four months into the new parliament. The next member of parliament was Sergei Mavrodi, the creator of the notorious MMM pyramid investment scheme, which defrauded millions of people. He promised to pay back those who lost their savings and turn Mytishchi into a "blossoming paradise". But the town looks as drab as ever and Mr Mavrodi decided not to stand again. The leading contender in a field of 12 in the local contest this time seemed to be Sergei Yushenkov, the liberal and chairman of parliament's defence committee, who is standing with Democratic Russia's Choice, the party of Yegor Gaidar, the former acting Prime Minister.

In a microcosm of the split between Russia's democrats, Boris Fyodorov, the former Finance Minister and leader of another pro-reform party, mounted an aggressive campaign against the party.

One advertisement in a local paper proclaimed that "homosexuals and lesbians are voting for Gaidar". Another called Mr Yushenkov, a former army officer, a "traitor colonel". An exit poll of 80 voters in two polling stations found Mr Yushenkov struggling for support. On the party ballot the Communists and Mr Yavlinsky's Yabloko party were way in front with 18 votes each.

Two elderly women helping each other out of the door into the snow volunteered that "we used to vote for Stalin". But this time they said they had voted for Mr Yavlinsky.

"I voted for [Gennadi] Zyuganov," the Communist Party leader, said Leonid Ivanov, an unemployed mechanic. "But if nothing works out with him, I will never come to the elections again."

The ultra-nationalist Vladimir Zhirinovsky, who topped the poll in 1993 and collected more than 22 per cent of the vote in Mytishchi, was heading for a fall and did not have a single adherent. Five voters said they were so fed up with politics they had ticked the last box on the form: "Against all candidates".

> "Five people fed up with politics ticked the box on the ballot form "Against all candidates"

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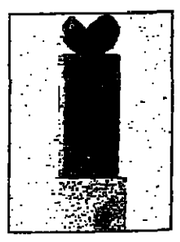
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ARTS THE WEEK AHEAD



VISUAL ART

William Turnbull, one of the unsung heroes of modern British art, goes on show at the Serpentine

OPEN: Now
REVIEW: Tomorrow



THEATRE

Tony Slattery does his National Service in a new Greenwich staging of Nichols's *Privates on Parade*

OPENS: Tonight
REVIEW: Wednesday



JAZZ

Ebullient George Melly is back dispensing songs and sauce at Ronnie Scott's

GIGS: All week
REVIEW: Wednesday



DANCE

Could it be Christmas without English National Ballet's *Nutcracker* at the Festival Hall?

OPENS: Tonight
REVIEW: Thursday

Ros Drinkwater finds out what happened when a TV crew dropped a Scottish comedian into the Arctic wilderness

When Billy got windy

Let's face it, Joanna Lumley is a hard act to follow. Last year when the BBC marooned her on a desert island to see how she would survive, she proved more than equal to the task, despite torrential rain, mosquitoes in their thousands, trenchfoot and near starvation. The programme, *Girl Friday*, was intended as a one-off Christmas special, but thanks to its success it now threatens to become an annual event.

The genre is the brainchild of Clive Tulloh, a film-maker with an appetite for living on the edge. Subjects of his recent films include the three ladies one would least like to be stuck with in a lift: Roseanne Barr, Heidi Fleiss and Imelda Marcos.

This time around, Tulloh has persuaded Billy Connolly to test his survival skills on the Arctic Ocean. Not that Connolly needed much persuasion. A veteran of the London-Los Angeles polar flight path, he had often gazed down on Baffin Island and pondered how he would find life on the ice.

Tulloh admits that, viewed from the cosy confines of W12, the concept was irresistible. "We could just imagine Billy," he says, "larger than life, going out and grabbing it with both hands, stamping his authority on the Arctic." But Mother Nature is not so easily stamped upon, as Tulloh was quickly to discover.

The adventure began with a 48-hour series of flights ending at Grise Fiord, 150 miles inside the Arctic Circle, as far due north of Montreal as Caracas is due south. This is Canada's most northerly community, home to 135 native Eskimos who hunt, fish, build igloos and live much as they have done for centuries, give or take mobile phones, skidoos and video recorders.

"Oh God, me and my big mouth," was Connolly's initial reaction to the unrelenting landscape. He cheered up at the sight of the welcoming committee; before his arrival the video store had done a roaring trade in rentals of *Indecent Proposal*, in which Connolly has a cameo role. Indeed, the entire population turned out to escort him, for what would be his only night of comfort, to the town's hotel. It was a B&B for Texan millionaires who pay megabucks to shoot polar bears, and scientists who study the population decline in said polar bears. So far, so good.

> Half of him longed to see a polar bear, the other half was terrified

Within a short time Tulloh realised he had three major headaches. "Shooting in the Arctic, both sound and vision are problematic. The silence is so profound, one man walking towards you sounds like the Third Reich approaching, and while it is breathtakingly beautiful — mountains, ocean, icebergs, what it all adds up to is an awful lot of white." Last, but by no means least, was Connolly's fear of being eaten.

For this, Tulloh feels he was partly to blame. "On the recce we'd seen a polar bear with two cubs, which is what we hoped would happen in the film. The problem was, while half of Billy longed to see a polar bear, the other half was terrified. Make no mistake, polar bears were a risk. They are very big, very fierce and there are a lot of them around."

But as a film-maker Tulloh had to consider the possibility that Connolly might take things so much in his stride that viewers would miss the danger element. A quiet word in the ear of the Eskimos seemed like a sensible precaution. They came up trumps, regaling Connolly with hunting stories which, as time wore on, got more and more outrageous.

"The crew found them hilarious, but then I noticed Billy wasn't laughing," says Tulloh. "To cap it all, who should pitch up but a Texan with a very dead, ten-foot-tall polar bear in his sledge." It was at that point that Connolly, as he put it in his own words, "started to get windy".

"It took him four or five days on the ice to overcome that fear of being eaten," says Tulloh. "Every time he started to feel a bit more confident something would pop up to remind him — a seal ripped to bits, or huge bear claw-marks all over a weather station hut." Paranoia is infectious and soon Tulloh himself had serious concerns for Connolly's safety. "We all began to imagine polar bears behind every iceberg."

By this time another problem had arisen, captured on camera in a marvellous moment when Connolly gets ratty. "Billy wanted the film to be about a man in isolation," Tulloh explains. "But that has a tricky knock-on effect — he was spending 14 hours a day alone and the more a person spends in isolation, the less he wants to see you every day.

"It's like being in solitary confinement. He became more and more introverted, possessive of his patch, in tune with nature and the wonder of it all. Then we'd roar up on our skidoos, shattering the silence, and his peace of mind."

With only two days to go there was still no sign of polar bears, so the unit set off in search of wildlife. "The Eskimos had assured us there were masses of seals and sea-lions. The trouble is, it rather depends on your perception. Our idea of 'masses' is kind of like the zoo, right there in front of you. We could see the wildlife all right — tiny dots, miles away on the horizon. The further we pursued it, the faster it moved in the opposite direction."

Even Connolly's sole souvenir ended up a casualty. "The Eskimo women had made him a seal-skin suit which he brought home to auction for charity," says Tulloh.

"Unfortunately it wasn't cured, and after two days of it stinking out the office we had to bin it."

Despite a lack of drama in the way of polar bear encounters, the film has the unexpected bonus of revealing far more of Connolly than even the radio psychiatrist, Dr Anthony Clare, might hope to uncover. As a glimpse of the curiously endearing and very human personality behind the macho image, it scores a bull's eye.

Ever an optimist, Tulloh is already working on his next proposed foray. Suffice it to say that if Dawn French happens to be reading this, she would be well advised to unplug the telephone. Unless, that is, she fancies a little holiday paddling a canoe up the Amazon.

● *Billy Connolly — A Scot in the Arctic*, is on BBC1 on December 28 at 9.30pm



A frosty Billy Connolly: at first the comedian revelled in his snowbound solitude, but he lost his sense of humour when the film crew invaded it

Banished to the shadows

MUSIC: **Hilary Finch** on recitals by Thomas Allen and Barry Douglas at the Wigmore Hall

For once, in the continuing and revelatory series of Britten songs at the Wigmore Hall, the composer himself seemed to be in danger of receding to a far-distant point. The series has already tuned into the reverberations between Britten and Purcell, Britten and Mozart, Britten and Schubert and Schumann: each twinning is a gentle exercise in oblique, sometimes even subliminal, association. Britten and Mahler, though, is a particularly tricky one.

Mahler was of enormous importance to Britten. He discovered and took to his heart the *Lieder eines fahrenden Gesellen (Songs of a Wayfarer)* as early as 1930: a good 30 years before Mahler's music was paid any serious attention in this country.

From then on he absorbed many of the shifting colours and timbres of Mahler's chamber-musical orchestration and, above all, empathised with its hauntings: the dark anxieties of childhood, the innocence and the experience within folk-song, the ever-present shadow of death.

Thomas Allen and his pianist **Malcolm Martineau** chose to reflect on a single strand: the way in which both composers were drawn to the naive and the demotic within folk music and distilled its elusive ambiguities in the inflection and harmonies of their respective settings.

Thursday's programme, however, was Mahler-heavy. Britten's early settings of Walter de la Mare, *Tit For Tat*, and just four of his very many folk-song arrangements seemed like something of an afterthought in the context of a programme that was dominated, however thoughtfully, by the *Lieder eines fahrenden Gesellen*, four other substantial Mahler songs, and five by Hugo Wolf.

The Wolf revealed Allen in clear, supple voice: free enough to dare the use of high, half-voice to express the visionary elements of the *Wayfarer* cycle, yet perhaps just too relaxed to turn the blade of the knife.

The dark tension of *Der Tambourg'sell (The Drummer-boy)*, too, was missing. Allen was closely reading the score both here and in the comparably shadowy Britten *Tom Noddy*. When released from the script in the clearly better-known folk-songs and encores, there was a marked tightening of concentration and focus.

If this recital — in the light of the series as a whole and of Allen's own artistry — was a little disappointing, then **Barry Douglas**'s piano recital the day before was something of a major letdown. Douglas gives few London recitals, and has recently taken a year's sabbatical, so his characteristically intelligently planned programme of Debussy, McCabe and Liszt was keenly anticipated.

Liszt's spare and dark valediction to Wagner, *R. W. — Venezia*, was used as a tiny *Vorspiel* to John McCabe's even darker *Tenebrae*, written between 1992 and 1993 in response to the deaths of Sir Charles Groves, William Mathias and Stephen Oliver. It is a tough, knotted piece of violent rhythmic and contrapuntal activity — and more than a passing echo of Liszt's own late writing. Douglas pulled it off with considerable flair, as he did Liszt's *Concert Paraphrase of Rigoletto* which acted as its catharsis.

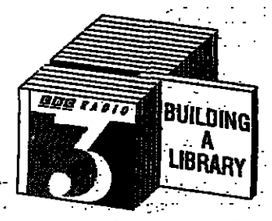
The Sonata in B minor, though, cannot live by flamboyance alone. This and the introductory Debussy *Suite pour le Piano* were disturbingly hyperactive, and interpretatively and sometimes even technically insecure. It was as if Douglas's strong and eloquent fingers had wilfully taken off on their own, dissociated from the discipline of ear or brain.

CLASSICAL CHOICE

A guide to the best available recordings, presented in association with Radio 3

MAHLER'S SYMPHONY NO 6

Reviewed by Stephen Walsh



It is odd to think that a mere 30 years ago Mahler's Sixth was thought his most forbidding and impenetrable symphony. Today you can choose between some 30 recordings. But it doesn't follow that the score has become easier, and I seriously doubt whether there are 30 conductors whose Mahler Sixth one really wants to hear. How many can evoke Mahler's own abject terror at the tragic finale with its hammer-blows, or that extraordinary scene after the final rehearsal in 1906, described by his widow Alma, in which "Mahler walked up and down in the artists' room, sobbing, wringing his hands, unable to control himself"?

The answer is, not many; and perhaps it is a mistake to try. I thought highly of the old Bernstein New York recording (still available), but was put off his later Vienna Philharmonic version — taken from a public concert — by a level of histrionics which wrecks that all-important finale. Others, like Tennstedt and Barbirolli also come to grief on an excess of groaning Romanticism.

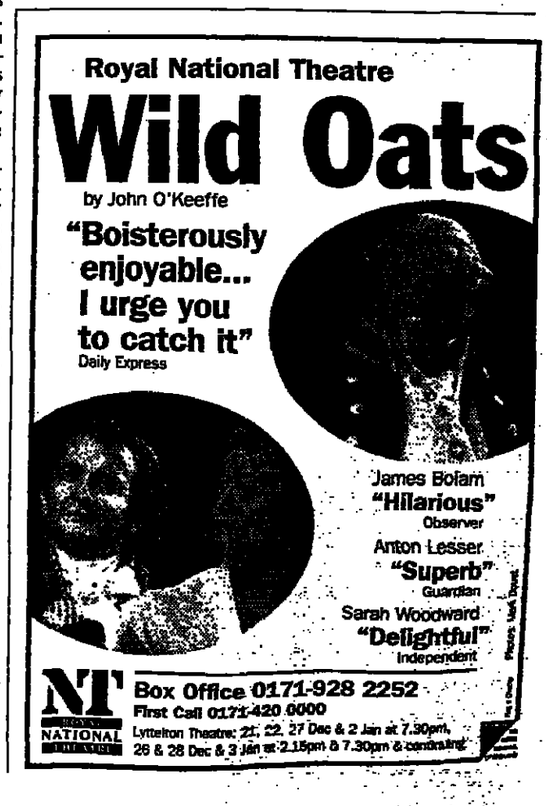
On the other hand, it is no use pretending that this is anything *but* Romantic music. Pierre Boulez's intriguing but oddly bureaucratic way of slotting it into some imaginary history of modern music ignores a whole dimension of Mahler's sentiment. Of course Boulez's precision is welcome, but he is let down by a dull recording. So are other versions that might look tempting: for instance the recent Ozawa recording with the Boston Symphony. This, like one or two others, comes from a public concert. Beware!

This is a work where you should check both circumstances and date of recording. Several companies have pulled down old tapes, tarted them up with glossy photos, and put them out as implicitly new versions. Not all are bad, but it is dangerous territory.

The recordings to look out for are by Bernard Haitink on Philips, especially the later Berlin version (426 257-2), though his old Concertgebouw set (442 000-2) is still good value in the middle price band; Simon Rattle, whose CBSO recording for EMI (CDS 7 54047-2) is strong on detail if a bit slow; and — my own favourite — Herbert von Karajan, with the Berlin Philharmonic in terrific form, a 1978 recording on Deutsche Gramophon (415 099-2). Karajan's performance (£24.95) is intensely beautiful and serene. Mahler himself probably did it differently, but that's another story.

● *Recommended recordings can be ordered from the Times CD Mail, 29 Pall Mall Deposit, Barlby Road, London W10 6BL (freephone 0500 418419; e-mail: bid@mail.bogo.co.uk)*
● *Next Saturday on Radio 3 (9am): Bach's Christmas Oratorio*







BOOKS

Charles Dickens's letters: Peter Ackroyd assesses the insights they offer

IN THE SHOPS: Now
REVIEW: Thursday



POP

Pulp pump out their own brand of festive spirit at the Brixton Academy

GIG: Wednesday
REVIEW: Friday



FILM

Closet joys: a kid finds a magical new friend in *The Indian in the Cupboard*

OPENS: Friday
REVIEW: Thursday



OPERA

Verdi's *Luisa Miller* is given a rare staging by Opera North at the Grand, Leeds

OPENS: Friday
REVIEW: Next week

ARTS
TUESDAY TO FRIDAY
IN SECTION 2

THEATRE: Byron's biblical drama fails to grip; but a rollicking panto comes to the East End

Abel, perhaps, but not thrilling

Cain
Barbican Pit

DONALD COOPER



Brothers in arms: Linford Brown (left) as Abel and Marcus D'Amico as Cain in Byron's theological play

The RSC is assuming the role of a religious foundation this winter, with Christmas carols in its main house and two biblical adventures in the Pit. Down there in the bowels of London's earth, Dennis Potter's *Son of Man* is joined in the repertoire by Lord Byron's 1821 verse drama, *Cain*, the two together straddling the Old and New Testaments, like the legs of a pair of compasses.

Byron's play had to wait until 1992 for its first professional staging in this country, at Chichester's Minerva Theatre, where Edward Hall's production invigorated some knotty speeches of compressed theology and drew exceptional playing in the principal roles of Lucifer, Cain and Cain's anguished wife Adah. Not knowing what to expect, I was astonished and engrossed on that occasion, and perhaps came to John Barton's production with hopes unwisely high. For while there are passages of emotional power in this revival, even moments of intellectual stimulus, and John Carlisle's dark honeyed voice is always a pleasure to hear, *the production as a whole lacked* the theatrical thrill necessary to keep attention fixed upon it.

For reasons unfathomable, Barton encloses the play within brief scenes set in a rocky wilderness, where pioneers, possibly trudging westward across the prairie, are cheered when a travelling preacher reads the opening chapter of *Genesis*. Audiences who journey to the Pit to watch a play called *Cain* are unlikely to be ignorant of the mythical background, while the relevance of the tale to the 19th-century experience is obscure, unless as counsel to raise animals on the new territory instead of planting cereals.

The pioneers leave the stage and return as the biblical characters, Adam, Eve and their four children, all save Cain dutifully pious and submissive before God's will. Marcus D'Amico's Cain significantly does not raise his hands in adoration nor mouth the words of praise, but his rebellion comes over as adolescent discontent rather than a more profound antagonism. The smiles he flashes at Carlisle's grey-suited Lucifer are almost flirty, suggesting, say, a country boy from Idaho impressed by a successful riverboat gambler.

In the aggressive wording of his prayer to Jehovah above the altar of first fruits, D'Amico's voice is at last passionate and outraged. But it seldom is until then. Nor does it suggest the intellectual curiosity required to animate the guided tour round the universe which always comes with a visit from an infernal spirit.

Carlisle's urbanely smiling Lucifer presents the arguments against unquestioning obedience to God with a suavity that ends in an abrupt expression of boredom. In *Cain* he finds a ready disciple, whereas in Thusitha Jayasundera's Adah, firm in her devotion, puzzled by her husband's doubt, he finds an adversary from whom he must turn away. Her unafraid comment, "I cannot answer this immortal thing", combines humility with a dismissal of what she feels no wish to need.

At the end the pioneers return, happy to have been reminded of the slaughter of Abel. Since it is not at all clear why this should be, the frame damages the Byron.

JEREMY KINGSTON

Giant dollop of family fun

Jack and The Beanstalk
Theatre Royal
Stratford East

STRATFORD East is the perfect theatre for a panto with its Victorian crimson plush, unpolished snugness and vibrant *community spirit*. The audience whoop and throw in comments whatever the season, so the place is a positive blast when "boo-hiss-behind-you" time comes round again. Moreover, this year's panto, traditional with up-to-date adjustments, is quite a cracker: warmly entertaining, well performed, thankfully thin on cheap innuendoes and with sets free of tinsel.

Sue Mayes's design offers old-style forest foliage on borders *and tabs. The spooky* castle is flown in, painted on a backcloth. The Giant's kitchen *is particularly pleasing with its mighty stove and saucepan the size of a small boy.* The Giant himself is a splendid surprise. Just when you thought all you were going to get was one big grisly hand playing peekaboo from the wings, there enters a walking, talking, twice-life-size (not really scary) troll, jaw clacking and eyes rolling. A cow-on-wheels with a waving head milks the mooing when Jack sells her for the beans. A pair *of wideboy puppet-crows*, chickens at heart and a little hard to hear, advise our hero to scarper from the castle gates.

The action rolls along at a fair lick even with half the village clambering up the beanstalk, among them Jack's *mother-in-drag (Adam Price)* and his sweetheart Berenice (Nathalie Tinn making a sweet-voiced debut). The cultural hotchpotch of the show proves jolly. Jack (Robert McKewley's black British giant-slayer) cavorts with his neighbours, who are half-Arcadian yokels, half-Dickensian creatures and, implicitly, East Enders plagued by THE GIANT [cue sinister chord] who is snaffling up their properties.

Memorable songs — though not all of them shine — include a ballad by the silver-plated Welsh fairy with a harp for wings; a witty Berlin cabaret number by the Giant's German Gothic wife Intravenia (excellent Debbie Norman); and a music-hall tap routine by Price's Dame, really getting into his hefty stride, spinning his axe like a gold-topped cane.

The script is not stuffed with wit and some performers fail to push their puns home, but there is some fine cartoony comedy. McKewley's Jack pulls charmingly silly faces under his huge-brimmed hat and Bill Thomas's fine, hunchbacked Mr Ringworm (the little man behind the bullying giant) writhes with fantastic villainy, like a bodypopping maggot.

KATE BASSETT

LONDON

SIMPLY RED Mick Hucknall and Co go on tour this week. Insane applause in their wake, sales of their latest album, *Life*, are already heading towards the million mark in Britain.
Wembley Arena (0181-900 1234) Tonight-Wed and Jan 12-15. Then **Birmingham, NEC** (0121-780 4133), Jan 4-6, 8-10. **Glasgow, SECC** (0141-248 9999), Jan 17-19; **Manchester, Nynex Arena** (0161-930 8000), Jan 21-23; **Newcastle, Arena** (0191-401 8000), Jan 25-27; **Sheffield Arena** (0114-256 5656), Jan 29-31; **London Arena** (0171-420 1212), Feb 2-5.

BRING ON THE FAIRY DUST Ben Stevenson's staging of English National Ballet's *The Nutcracker* is lively — complete with flying pastry cooks and Christmas trees that grow and grow — and so, very popular. It takes over the Festival Hall for the next three weeks with Agnes Oaks, Thomas Edur as the Snow Queen and Prince tonight. Petra Struchkova's magnificent Russian-style production of *Swan Lake* follows. **Festival Hall**, South Bank, SE1 (0171-960 4242). Tonight, 8pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Sat and Dec 21, 26-29, Jan 2 and 10, 2.30pm. Until Jan 12.

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Kris Anderson

WAR CHILD John Williams and Carlos Bonell team up in concert for the first time in nearly 20 years for tonight's guitar spectacular. An eclectic programme of Baroque, Spanish and jazz music will bring in unspecified friends, all in aid of the War Child charity. **Wigmore Hall**, Wigmore Street, W1 (0171-935 2141). Tonight, 7.30pm.

ELSEWHERE

SUDBURY The curator of Thomas Gainsborough's house spreads his own version of Christmas cheer with free entry until the Saturday. An offer that should not be refused as his property shows more of the artist's work than any other gallery in the world, and some paintings have only recently gone on view. **46 Gainsborough Street** (01787-372 958). Tue-Sat, 10am-4pm.

MANCHESTER Pianist **Peter Donohoe** gives his annual concert in aid of the Cancer Relief MacMillan Fund tonight. He is joined by pianist Elaine Burns, the MacMillan Chamber Orchestra and the Joy Nicholson dancers. **Royal Northern College of Music**, Oxford Road (0161-273 4504). 7pm.

NORWICH Opening night for the first production in the newly completed theatre. Guy Slater directs Timothy West and Angharad Rees in Stoppard's ***Jumpers**, a brilliant combination of* acrobatics, philosophy and murder. **Playhouse**, Gun Wharf, St George's Street, (01603-766 466). Tonight, 8pm. Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Thurs and Sat, 2.30pm. Until Jan 6.

LONDON GALLERIES

Hayward Art and Power: Europe under the dictators 1930-1945 (071-928 3144). **National Gallery** Paintings from National Trust Houses (0171-747 2885). **National Portrait Gallery** Richard and Maria Cosway (0171-306 0055). **Royal Academy** David Hockney Drawing Retrospective (0171-439 7438). **Tate** Colin Self: The Art of War 1939-45 (0171-887 8000). **V & A** Jain Art from India.

■ **COMPANY** Sheila Gish and Adrian Lester in the cast of 14 for Sondheim's bittersweet musical on love relationships and staying single. Sam Mendes directs. **Donmar Warehouse**, Earlham Street, WC2 (0171-369 1732). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed and Sat, 3pm.

☐ **DEAD FUNNY** Belinda Lang, Kevin McNally and Sam Kelly in Terry Johnson's sharply funny play about comics and some of their fans. **Savoy**, The Strand, WC2 (0171-836 8888). Mon-Fri, 8pm; Sat, 8.15pm, mats Wed, 2.30pm and Sat, 5pm.

☐ **THE GLASS MENAGERIE** Welcome transfer from the Donmar for Sam Mendes' radiant production. Zoe Wanamaker and Claire Skinner continue as mother and daughter. Ben Walden comes in as the new Tom. **Comedy**, Panton Street, SW1 (0171-369 1731). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Sat, plus Dec 28 and Jan 4, 3pm.

☐ **HYSTERIA** Henry Goodman plays Freud, with Tim Potter as Salvador Dali, in Terry Johnson's surreal, double award-winner. The funniest serious play in London. **Duke of Yorks**, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-836 5122). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Thurs and Sat, 3pm.

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

■ **House full, returns only**
◪ **Some seats available**
☐ **Seats at all prices**

◪ **AN INSPECTOR CALLS** Stephen Daldry's powerful production, with Nicholas Woodeson as the all-knowing Inspector, and Edward Peel and Susan Engel as the pillars of society. **Garrick**, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-494 5085). Mon-Fri, 7.45pm; Sat, 6.15pm; *mats Wed, 2.30pm, Sat, 5pm*.

■ **THE JUNGLE BOOK** Tim Supple's vigorous, utterly enjoyable adaptation of three Mowgli stories. A refreshing relief from Disney cuteness. **Young Vic**, The Cut, SE1 (0171-928 6363). Today, 10.30am and 2.30pm. Contact box office for schedule.

◪ **PRIVATES ON PARADE** Tony Slattery plays the irrepressibly camp entertainer in Peter Nichols's comedy with music, set at an Army Camp Party in Malaya in 1948. Paul Clayton directs. **Greenwich**, Crooms Hill, SE10 (0181-858 7755). Opens tonight, 7pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mat Sat, 2.30pm.

☐ **THE SHAKESPEARE REVUE** A witty evening of song, dance and sketches to do with William S. Assembled by Christopher Luscombe and Malcolm McKee. **Vaudeville**, Strand, WC2 (0171-836 9987). Mon-Fri, 8pm; Sat, 8.30pm, mats Wed, 2.30pm and Sat, 5.30pm.

■ **TALES FROM HOME** The Bechi Tollers return along with the Jewish tales they tell so well, their new repertoire includes legends from Ireland, Africa and the Caribbean. **Tricycle**, 269 Kilburn High Road, NW6 (0171-328 1000). Previews tonight, 8pm; *opens tomorrow, 7pm*.

◪ **THE WAY OF THE WORLD** Congreve's most famous comedy of love frustrated and fulfilled. Roger Allam and Fiona Shaw interesting as the lovers, Geraldine McEwan outstanding as a tragic Lady Wishfort. **National** (Lyttelton), South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2252). Tonight-Wed, 7.30pm, mat Wed, 2.15pm.

Ticket information supplied by Society of London Theatre. **Availability at time of going to press; check box office.**

NEW RELEASES

◆ **BABE** (U) Glorious, vivacious family film about a sheep-herding pig, with a cast of talking animals. Director, Chris Noonan. **Barbican** (0171-638 8891); **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323); **Empire** (0171-437 1234); **MGMs: Baker Street** (0171-935 9772); **Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636); **Trocadero** (0171-434 0031); **Odeon Swiss Cottage** (01426 914 098); **Plaza** (0171-437 1234); **Rio** (0171-254 6677); **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121); **UCI Whiteleys** (0171-792 3332).

LA BELLE ET LA BETE (PG) Revival of Cocteau's enchanting version of Beauty and the Beast, with Jean Marais and Josette Day. **Everyman** (0171-435 1525); **NFT** (0171-928 3232); **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121).

***THE SHOOTER** (18)* US marshal (Dolph Lundgren) comes to Prague to prevent an assassination. Video fodder, directed by Ted Kotcheff. **MGM Trocadero** (0171-434 0031).

◆ **THE SWAN PRINCESS** (U) Wizard threatens wedding of Prince Derek and Princess Odette. Bland animated fairy tale. Director, Richard Rich. **MGM Trocadero** (0171-434 0031); **UCI Whiteleys** (0171-792 3332).

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country

◆ **THREE WISHES** (PG) Hobo spreads wisdom in the American suburbs. Dawdling romantic fantasy directed by Martha Coolidge, with Patrick Swayze and Mary Elizabeth Mastrantonio. **MGM Trocadero** (0171-434 0031); **Warner** (0171-437 4343).

◆ **THE TIE THAT BINDS** (18) Nasty thriller about child adoption, with Keith Carradine and Daryl Hannah. **MGM Trocadero** (0171-434 0031); **Plaza** (0171-437 1234); **Warner** (0171-437 4343).

CURRENT

◆ **THE AMERICAN PRESIDENT** (15) What happens when the widowed President gets a girlfriend? Not much, even with Michael Douglas and Annette Bening. Director, Rob Reiner. **Empire** (0171-437 1234); **MGM Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636); **Trocadero** (0171-434 0031); **Coronet** (0171-727 6705); **Odeon Kensington** (01426 914666); **Screen/Baker Street** (0171-935 2772); **UCI Whiteleys** (0171-792 3332).

◆ **GOLDENEYE** (12) Pierce Brosnan twinkles as the new James Bond. A no-roaming thriller with a sense of humour. **Barbican** (0171-638 8891); **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323); **MGMs: Baker Street** (0171-935 9772); **Chelsea** (0171-352 5096); **Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636); **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666); ***Leicester Square** (01426 915583)*; **Marble Arch** (01426 914501); **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098); **UCI Whiteleys** (0171-792 3332).

◆ **THE SANTA CLAUSE** (U) Divorced dad becomes the new Santa. Broad family comedy with a human face, featuring Tim Allen. **MGM Chelsea** (0171-352 5096); **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666); **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098); **West End** (01426 915574); **UCI Whiteleys** (0171-792 3332).

UNSTRUNG HEROES (PG) Diane Keaton directs this eccentric heart-warmer about a boy's charmed life with crazy relatives. With Nathan Witt, Andie MacDowell, John Turturro. **MGM Tottenham Court Road** (0171-636 6148); **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121); **Screen/Hill** (0171-435 3366).

ENTERTAINMENTS

ART GALLERIES

LEFEVRE GALLERY 30 Bruton St, W1. 0171-493 2107. An exhibition of **MODERN BRITISH ARTISTS** 1900-1945. 27 Nov-20 Dec. Mon-Fri 10-5.

ROY MILES GALLERY. New works by **SERGEI CHEPIK** now on view. 29 Bruton Street, W1.

SPINK. The Botanical Garden. Watercolours by Gillian Barlow. 29 Nov-22 Dec. Mon-Fri, 9am-5.30pm, Tues 9am-7.30pm. 5 King St SW1.

DANCE

SADLER'S WELLS 0171 713 6000
LONDON CITY BALLET
CINDERELLA
Until Jan 6
Mon-Sat 7.30, Mats 27,29,30
Jan 6 at 2.30. No perfs Dec 24,25,31

OPERA & BALLET

COLISEUM 0171 632 8300 (24hr) **ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA** Tonight 7.30 LA BELLE VIVETTE. *Tomor 7.30 TURANDOT*

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE 0171 304 4000 for Box Off & Standby Info. Tickets available on the day. The Royal Opera: Tomor, Fri 7.30 AIDA. The Royal Ballet: Tonight, Wed 7.30 TWYLA THARP ROSSINI BALLET. Thur 7.00 (First Night), Sat 1.00 & 6.00 LES PATINEURS/ TALES OF BEATRIX POTTER. Fri 12.00 (First Performance) PETER AND THE WOLF/ TALES OF BEATRIX POTTER.

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL 071 960 4242
ENGLISH NATIONAL BALLET
THE NUTCRACKER
OPENS TONIGHT
SWAN LAKE
8-13 January

THEATRES

ADELPHI
"ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER'S MASTERPIECE" Wall St Journal
SUNSET BOULEVARD
Winner of 7 Tony Awards including
BEST MUSICAL
Starring
ELAINE PAIGE
24-HR CREDIT CARD BOOKINGS
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No booking fee for Adelphi Box Office Callers
Recorded information 0171 379 6565
Mon-Sat 7.45 Mats Thur & Sat 3.00

ALBERY BO 0171 369 1730 cc 0171 344 4444 (no big fee) Grp 0171 413 3311
"FIVE STAR SHOW ...IRRESISTIBLE" D.Exp
FIVE GUYS NAMED MOE
SIXTH STOMPING YEAR
Mon-Thu 8pm Fri & Sat 6 & 8.45
LAST 4 WEEKS
Fri & Sat 6pm perf:Top 4 prices 2 for 1
No Performance Mon 25 Dec

ALDWYCH cc 0171 416 6003 0171 420 0000 (no fee)
Evgs 7.30, Mats Wed & Sat 3.0
NIAMH CUSACK
MARGARET TYZACK
PAUL BHATTACHARJEE
INDIAN INK
"TOM STOPPARD'S TRIUMPH - A BEAUTIFUL AND FUNNY FIREBALL OF A PLAY TO ILLUMINATE THE WEST END" Today. Directed by PETER WOOD
LAST 3 WEEKS ENDS JAN 6

AMBASSADORS
836 6111/420 0100/344 4444
For 6 weeks only
TRAINSPOTTING
Award-winning play from Irvine Welsh's novel
"Feverishly Funny" Guardian
Mon-Fri at 8 Sat 5 & 8.30 Wed Mat at 5

APOLLO VICTORIA cc 0171 416 6055 cc 24hrs 0171 344 4444/0171 420 0000 Grps 0171 416 6075/ 413 3321
Andrew Lloyd Webber's New production of
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White knuckle runs 10.45 daily
Tue & Sat 15.00 Tickets from £12.50
NO PERF 25 DEC
EXTRA MAT 26 DEC AT 3PM

APOLLO 494 5068/344 4444/420 0000. Eves 8, Mats Thu 3, 5 & 8.15
JENNY SEAGROVE
"Impeccable" Times
HAYLEY MILLS
"Magnificent" F.T
DEAD GUILTY
"Richard Harris' new play is THE PERFECT THRILLER" S.Times

BLOOMSBURY THEATRE B/O C.C 0171 388 8822 until Dec 30 Mon-Fri 11.30 & 3.00 W/C Dec 25 Tue-Sat 11.30 & 3.00
BOOTY AT CHRISTMAS

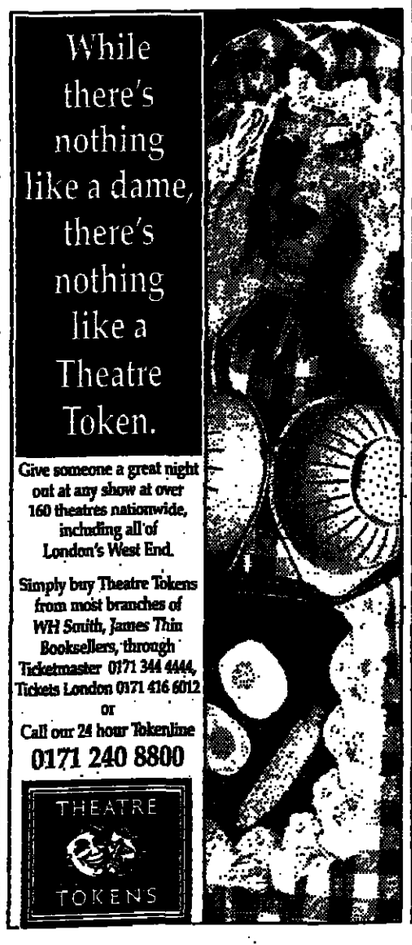
CAMBRIDGE BO & cc 0171 494 5054 cc (no big fee) 312 1992/ 344 4444 Grps 413 3321/ 312 1990/ 494 5454
FAME THE MUSICAL
"FAME IS A FEEL-GOOD TRIUMPH" Mail On Sunday
"BREATHTAKING" Independent
Eves 7.30, Mats Wed & Sat 3.00
Extra Mat Thur 28 Dec at 2pm
No Performance Mon 25 Dec

COMEDY BO & cc 0171 369 1731 cc 0171 420 0000 (no big fee)
ZOE WANAMAKER in THE GLASS MENAGERIE by TENNESSEE WILLIAMS
Directed by Sam Mendes
Eves 7.30 Mats Sat 3.00
LIMITED SEASON
Extra Mats 28 Dec & 4 Jan at 3pm
No Perfs 25, 26 Dec & 1 Jan

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JONATHAN HARVEY'S NEW COMEDY HIT
RUPERT STREET LONELY HEARTS CLUB
"wickedly funny...brilliantly comic" D.Mail
Tues-Sat 8, Sat 4, Sun 3 & 7
NB 2 SUN PERFS AT 3 & 7
RED PRICE PREVS NOW!!
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GREASE
Starring SHANE RICHIE and SAMANTHA JANUS
"Fast, furious & fun, fun, fun." Daily Mirror
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EXTRA MAT 26 DEC 3PM

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Henry Goodman Aisling O'Sullivan
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Terry Johnson's "CUSTARD PIE OF COMIC BRILLIANCE" Time Out
Best Comedy Olivier Award
FOR 7 WEEKS ONLY
Eves 7.30, Mats Thu & Sat 3pm
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MISS SAIGON
"THE CLASSIC LOVE STORY OF OUR TIME"
NOW IN ITS 7TH SENSATIONAL YEAR!
Eves 7.45 Mats Wed & Sat 3pm
Good seats avail for Wed Mat & some perfs - apply B.O. FOR TELEPHONE/POSTAL BOOKINGS & PERSONAL CALLERS
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DON'T DRESS FOR DINNER
"Gleefully Outrageous" T.Out

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Susan Hill's
THE WOMAN IN BLACK
Adapted by Stephen Mallatratt
"A real thrill of horror" S.Times
NOW IN ITS 7TH YEAR
Mon-Sat 8pm Mats Tues 3pm Sat 4pm
Extra Mat Dec 26 at 3pm

FORTUNE 0171 836 2238
"A real treat for 3-9 year olds" Gdn
THE ENCHANTED TOYSHOP
Today at 1.30 & 3.30

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WINNER OF 19 MAJOR AWARDS
The Royal National Theatre production
JB Priestley's
AN INSPECTOR CALLS
"THRILLING...MUST BE SEEN" D.Mail
"ONE OF THE MOST INTOXICATING, THEATRICALLY IMAGINATIVE EXPERIENCES OF THE 1990s" E.S
"TWO HOURS OF ENTHRALLING, VISUALLY STUNNING DRAMA" D.Tel
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Mon-Fri 7.45, Sat 5.00 & 8.15, Wed mat 2.30
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"with the audience in turn ROARING WITH LAUGHTER AND LEAPING FORWARD IN FRIGHT" Independent
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ALAN BATES GEMMA JONES
'superb' Times 'marvellous' Gdn
THE MASTER BUILDER
'Peter Hall's fine new staging' D.Tel
'Not to be missed on any account' S.Tms
ONLY 4 MORE WEEKS!
Mon-Sat 7.45, Mats Wed, Sat 3pm

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THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
Directed by HAROLD PRINCE
NOW BKG TO 28 SEPT 96
Eves 7.45 Mats Wed & Sat 3.00.
Apply to Box Office daily for returns
Extra Mat Thu 28 Dec at 3.00
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RETURNS TO THE WEST END
"A MAJOR THEATRICAL EVENT" Daily Mail
OLIVER!
2ND SPECTACULAR YEAR
"LIONEL BART'S MASTERPIECE
YOU CAN'T ASK FOR MORE" S.Times
Eves 7.30 Mats Wed & Sat 2.30
Extra Mat Thur 28 Dec at 2.30
No Performance Mon 25 Dec
SOME GOOD SEATS AVAIL NOW FOR WEEKDAY PERFS.

LYRIC Shaftesbury Ave BO/cc 0171 494 5080 cc 0171 344 4444 (no big fee)
Nichola McAuliffe
Grahame Turner
and Frank Thornton
HOBSON'S CHOICE
by Harold Brighouse
"MAGNIFICENT...an evening that brims with laughter" D.Tel
"Frank Hauser's deliciously piquant revival is A DELIGHT" Std
Eves 7.30 Mats Sat 3.00
No Performance Mon 25 Dec
EXTENDED TO 3 FEB

NEW LONDON Drury Lane WC2 BO 0171 405 0072 CC 0171 404 4079 24hr 0171 344 4444/420 0000
Grps 0171 413 3311/930 6123
THE ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER/ T.S. ELIOT INTERNATIONAL AWARD-WINNING MUSICAL
CATS
Eves 7.45 Mats Tue & Sat 3.00
Extra Mats 27, 28 Dec at 3pm
No Mat 26 Dec
No Performance Mon 25 Dec
LATECOMERS NOT ADMITTED WHILE AUDITORIUM IS IN MOTION, PLEASE BE PROMPT.
Bars open at 6.45
LIMITED NO. OF SEATS AVAIL DAILY FROM BOX OFFICE.

NATIONAL THEATRE BO 0171 928 2252. Grps 0171 620 0741/24hr cc bkg fee 0171 420 0000
OLIVIER Ton't 7.15 A LITTLE NIGHT MUSIC Music & lyrics by Stephen Sondheim, book by Hugh Wheeler. Tomor 7.15 VOLPONE Ben Jonson. Ton't 6pm, PLATFORM: OSCAR WILDE STORIES. LYTTLETON Ton't, Tomor 7.30 THE WAY OF THE WORLD William Congreve. COTTESLOE Ton't, Tomor 7.30 CYRANO Edmond Rostand, adapted by Jalinder Verma, rendered into verse by Ranjit Bolt.

OLD VIC 0171 928 6855/312 8034
The Royal National Theatre's
THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS
"AN ABSOLUTE WINNER" Time Out
MATCHLESS PERFORMANCES...
UTTERLY ENCHANTING...A SMALL MASTERPIECE" Daily Mail
"A WONDERFUL EVENING" F.T
"AN IRRESISTIBLE PIECE OF THEATRE" LNR
Some Good Seats Still Available Before Christmas
Mon-Sat 7.30pm, Wed & Sat mats 2.30pm
Extra mats Dec 26,28,29 at 2.30pm

PALACE THEATRE 0171-434 0909 cc 24hr (big fee) 0171-344 4444 Grps 0171 413 3311
THE WORLD'S MOST POPULAR MUSICAL
LES MISERABLES
NOW IN ITS 11TH RECORD-BREAKING YEAR
Eves 7.30 Mats Thu & Sat 2.30
Extra Mat Wed 27 Dec at 2.30
No Performance Mon 25 Dec
Latecomers not admitted until the Interval
LIMITED NO. OF SEATS AVAIL. DAILY FROM BOX OFFICE

PHOENIX BO/CC 0171 369 1733 /344 4444/420 0000 (fee)
DAVID CASSIDY
STARS FOR 4 WEEKS ONLY IN WILLY RUSSELL'S
BLOOD BROTHERS
STEPHANIE LAWRENCE
CARL WAYNE
"...Brings the audience to its feet, and rearing its approval" D.Mail
Eves 7.45 Mats Thurs 3 Sat 4
EXTRA MAT 27 DEC AT 3

PICCADILLY 0171 369 1734 cc 24hrs 344 4444, Grps 312 1970/413 3321
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Evening Standard Award '95
"ONE OF THE BEST MUSICAL PRODUCTIONS LONDON HAS SEEN FOR YEARS" D.Express
"JERRY HERMAN'S WONDERFUL BURST OF MUSICAL FIREWORKS" D.Mail
MACK & MABEL
THE HOLLYWOOD ROMANCE
Mon-Sat at 7.45, Mats Wed & Sat at 3.00
Extra Mat Thurs Dec 28 at 3.00
SOME GOOD SEATS AVAIL FOR MOST PERFS

PLAYHOUSE 0171 839 4401 /0171 420 0000/0171 344 4444
AN ALL STAR CAST IN RAY COONEY'S NEW COMEDY HIT
FUNNY MONEY
"LAUGHS GALORE...A WINNER" D. Exp
"Better than Feydeau...priceless" D. Tel
Mon-Sat 8.00, Mats Thu 3.00, Sat 5.00
EXTRA MAT 27 DEC AT 3

PRINCE EDWARD 0171 734 8951 cc (24hr no big fee) First Call 420 0100 / 0171 344 4444 Groups 930 6123.
BEST MUSICAL
Laurence Olivier Awards 93
"YOU'D BE CRAZY TO MISS IT" D.Mail
CRAZY FOR YOU
"PUTS THE BRIGHT LIGHTS BACK IN THE WEST END IN DAZZLING STYLE" Mail On Sun
Eves 7.45, Mats Thu & Sat 3.00
Extra Mat Wed 27 Dec at 3pm
No Performance Mon 25 Dec
GOOD SEATS AVAILABLE THIS WEEK

PRINCE OF WALES 0171 839 5972/420 0232/344 4444/416 6052 Grps 0171 420 0200/413 3321
TOMMY STEELE WHAT A SHOW
"Tommy's Show packs Flash, Bang, Wallop" Eve Standard
Evgs Mon-Sat 8pm, Mats Wed 3pm Sat 5pm
For a Limited Season

PRINCE EDWARD 0171 447 5400 First Call 420 0100 (24hr Big fee) 344 4444 Groups 420 0200
Cameron Mackintosh presents
MARTIN GUERRE
A New Musical by
BOUBLIL & SCHONBERG
FROM 22 MAY 1996

QUEENS BO/CC (£1 bkg fee) 0171 494 5040/344 4444
Mon-Thu 8pm, Fri 8.45pm
Sat 23 Dec 6pm only no perf Dec 25
LILY SAVAGE PRISONER CELL-BLOCK H
THE MUSICAL
"Hilarious" F.T.
"A Huge Hit -
A Christmas Smash" Obs
4 WEEKS ONLY!
Stalls & D.C. £12.50-£24.00, Upper Circle £8.50

ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY LONDON (0171 638 8891) BARBICAN:
A CHRISTMAS CAROL Ton't 7.15
THE PIT: SON OF MAN
Today 2.00 & 7.15
STRATFORD (01789 295623)
RST: JULIUS CAESAR Ton't 7.30
SWAN: THE CHERRY ORCHARD Ton't 7.30
TOP: THE PAINTER OF DISHONOUR Ton't 7.30

SAVOY THEATRE 0171 836 8888 cc 420 0000 grps 312 1970 No bkg fee
BELINDA LANG KEVIN McNALLY
in Terry Johnson's award winning comedy
DEAD FUNNY
"Blissfully Witty and Wicked" Eve Stand
Mon-Fri 8pm, Sat 8.15pm
Sat mat 5pm & Wed mat 2.30pm

SHAFTESBURY 0171 379 5399 344 4444 (24hr/big fee)
IT'S BACK - 4 WEEKS ONLY 19 DEC-13 JAN INC MATS
RETURN TO THE FORBIDDEN PLANET
THE COSMIC XMAS PARTY
"deliriously addictive" D.Tel
Mon-Thurs 8.00, Fri, Sat 5 & 8.30
No perf on Mon 25 Dec
Extra mat Dec 27 at 2.30

SHAFTESBURY 0171 379 5399 0171 344 4444 (24hr/no bkg fee) Groups 0171 413 3321
TOMMY
PAUL KEATING KIM WILDE
As Tommy As Mrs Walker
Previews 20 February. Opens 5 March

ST MARTIN'S 0171 836 1443 (no bkg fee) 0171 497 9977 (bkg fee) Groups 0171 312 1994 (no bkg fee)
Eves 8, Tues 2.45, Sat 5 & 8
44th Year of Agatha Christie's
THE MOUSETRAP

STRAND THEATRE Box Off & cc (no fee) 0171 930 8800 cc (bkg fee)-0171 344 4444/420 0000 Groups 0171 413 3321/0171 930 6123
BUDDY
The Buddy Holly Story
"BRILLIANT" Sun
BUDDY
"WONDERFUL STUFF" Sun Tel
BUDDY
Tues-Thurs 8.0 Fri 5.30 & 8.30
Sats 5.00 & 8.30, Suns 4.00
ALL SEATS 1/2 PRICE FRI 5.30 PERF
7th HEAVENLY YEAR

VAUDEVILLE 0171 836 9987 cc 420 0000/344 4444 (no bkg fee)
"For a sparkling, affectionate and hilarious evening in the theatre, go and see The RSC production of
THE SHAKESPEARE REVUE"
The Times
"This hugely enjoyable show"
Daily Telegraph
Mon-Fri 8.00pm Sat 8.30pm
Mats Wed 2.30pm Sat 5.30pm
No Performance Mon 25 Dec

VAUDEVILLE 0171 836 9987 cc 420 0000/344 4444 (no big fee)
"For a sparkling, affectionate and hilarious evening in the theatre, go and see The RSC production of
THE SHAKESPEARE REVUE"
The Times
"This hugely enjoyable show"
Daily Telegraph
Mon-Fri 8.00pm Sat 8.30pm
Mats Wed 2.30pm Sat 5.30pm

VICTORIA PALACE BO & cc (no fee) 0171 834 1317 cc (bkg fee) 0171 344 4444/312 1998/497 9977 Groups 0171 312 1997 (no fee) /0171 930 6123 (bkg fee)
BRIAN CONLEY
"Gives the performance of the decade" Mail on Sunday
In
JOLSON
"A resounding hit" Sun. Tel
JOLSON
"Worth walking a million miles to see" D.Mail
JOLSON
Evgs Mon-Sat 7.30,
Mats Wed & Sat 3.00
Now booking to 28

Carbon dioxide blamed for the great extinction

Earth's big belch



SCIENCE BRIEFING

Nigel Hawkes

AFTER the Big Bang, the Big Belch. Three American scientists have come up with a novel explanation for the most cataclysmic event that ever struck the Earth — the destruction of 95 per cent of living species 250 million years ago. They reckon it was the global equivalent of what happens when you open a bottle of champagne.

The Permian extinction is well documented in the fossil records, and the best explanation for it until now has been a massive volcanic eruption that altered the climate. But nothing lubricates the imagination like a good extinction.

At a recent meeting of the Geological Society of America in New Orleans, Doctors Andrew Knoll of Harvard, Richard Bambach of Virginia Polytechnic Institute, and John Grotzinger of Massachusetts Institute of Technology presented evidence that it was a surge of carbon dioxide that knocked off the trilobites and their companions.

The first clue came from a layer of rock from the late Permian, which the scientists recognised as an inorganic carbonate. Most of the carbonate rocks are formed from the remains of animals, but this one had precipitated directly from sea water, presumably when dissolved carbon dioxide reached a very high level.

The cause, they believe, was a shutdown of ocean circulation towards the end of the Permian. At the time, all the continents grouped together in a super-continent called Pangaea, and the oceans were sluggish because there were no continental ice sheets to chill the surface waters and make them sink to the depths.

At the surface, living things were busily extracting carbon dioxide and adding it to the ocean's store. This thinned the atmosphere of carbon dioxide, cooling it in the obverse of global warming, and eventually leading to an ice age. That would have stirred the oceans at last, releasing the dissolved carbon dioxide with all the frenetic enthusiasm of a grand prix driver on the podium.

Ingenious, but where's the evidence? Apart from the rock, the three pointed to some other straws that hint they may be on to something. There is some evidence of glaciation in the late Permian, and the isotopic composition of carbon in the rocks hints at rapid oceanic turnover.

The pattern of extinctions also fits. The creatures that suffered the greatest losses were those least tolerant of higher carbon dioxide levels; those that did best were marine burrowers which spent their lives in sediments where carbon dioxide levels were already high.

The thesis had a reasonable reception in New Orleans. "It isn't as yet backed up by a tremendous amount of data," the palaeontologist Dr Douglas Erwin of the US National Museum of Natural History told *Science* with masterly understatement. "But I think it's an interesting, even fascinating hypothesis."

On the trail of a cow with no horns



SCIENTISTS in Canada have discovered a way of selecting cattle so that they will produce hornless calves, offering a chance of saving farmers a lot of trouble and calves, perhaps, some pain.

At present, most calves in Britain are dehorned when young. But some cows carry a gene for hornlessness. If a cow with two copies of this gene (one on each of the chromosome pair) is crossed with a bull which also carries both copies, the result is a hornless calf.

In principle, this is a way of creating a hornless breed of cows better suited to modern farming methods, and spared the dehorning process. Now Dr Sheila Schmutz and colleagues from the University of Saskatoon in Canada report in *Mammalian Genome* that they have identified "markers" for the gene that should make such testing easy. So far she has found them in Charolais, Simmenthal and Limousin cattle.

"There's no genetic engineering involved," she says in *New Scientist*. "We are just selecting at an early stage a trait that was there anyway."

The matter with the universe



ASTRONOMERS in Edinburgh, California and Arizona seem to have hammered another nail into the cosmologists' favourite model of the universe.

Using the UK Infrared telescope in the Canaries and the Keck telescope in Hawaii, they have studied a remote galaxy called 53w091. The light from the galaxy has a large red-shift, showing that is moving away from us rapidly and that it is very remote.

Yet the spectrum of the radiation from the galaxy measured by the Keck telescope suggests that it is about three billion years old. This combination simply does not fit the currently most-favoured model of the universe, which predicts that such a galaxy should be much younger.

The easiest way to square the circle, say the team in *Spectrum*, the newsletter of the Royal Observatories, is to assume that the universe contains less matter than we thought. Other recent evidence points the same way. The team, which includes John Peacock, James Dunlop and Raul Jimenez from Edinburgh, intends to keep looking.



MARY EVANS

The Magi, thought to have been astrologers, follow the star to the east — but if this was a major planetary event, why wasn't it recorded elsewhere?

Following the clues to the Star of Bethlehem

Comet, meteor, or miracle? **Anjana Ahuja** on the guiding light that led to the stable

THE ONLY clues to its identity appear in the Gospel according to St Matthew: "... there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, saying, where is he that is born King of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him" (Matthew ii, 2). And: "When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was" (ii, 9).

The Star of Bethlehem has tantalised astronomers and historians alike ever since. Many are not certain whether the star ever existed. Others think the birth of Jesus may well have been heralded by a true astronomical event, because the wise men to whom the star appeared are thought to have been astrologers. Their role was to interpret the destinies written in the heavens, implying they were well-versed in the movements of the planets and stars.

There are several suggestions as to what celestial event the Star of Bethlehem might have represented. Some suppose that a close approach, or conjunction, of two or more planets might have sufficed as a divine sign. Other, more spectacular possibilities are a supernova, comet or meteor. Many Christians claim that the star defies explanation because it was a miracle.

Let us look first at one obvious suspect. Perhaps Venus, the diamond among planets, was the biblical star. At certain times during its 225-day orbit of the Sun, Venus is the brightest object in the sky apart from the Sun and the Moon. It has often been mistaken for the Star of Bethlehem. The number of reported UFO sightings also goes up when the planet is at its most luminous. Despite this, Venus is probably not the answer, because it has always been familiar to astronomers and to wise men throughout the ages.

One suspects that it would have taken something very unusual to persuade these wise men that the Messiah was about to come into the world. If the event were unusual, might it be recorded somewhere else? Any earthly search for the answer must begin with an accurate dating of Christ's birth. Because of confusion when the year-numbering system first came about, the Nativity is thought by historians to have taken place between 8 and 4BC.

Records from ancient China, which contain information on all phenomena visible to the naked eye, note the appearance of a bright comet in 5BC. The trouble is that the Bible implies that nobody apart from the wise men saw it, an unusual state of affairs for so striking a vision. Halley's comet, an obvious suspect, would not have been passing close to Earth at the time of the Nativity. If a supernova — a violent stellar explosion which can lead to the creation of a black hole — had occurred during that time and been visible from Earth, a great fuss would surely have ensued. Both the spectacle and fuss are absent from the Chinese records.

The other major astronomical happening was a coming together of the planets Jupiter and Saturn in 7BC, in the constellation of Pisces. They appeared close together on three separate occasions, in an event called a triple conjunction. This happens about once every 139 years. Many think that a simple planetary event such as this, rather than a dazzling spectacle, is a more fitting candidate for the Star of Bethlehem. Only the Magi, or wise men, would have been able to read the heavens, and the conjunction would have been heavy with meaning — Jupiter, the king of the gods, coming together with Saturn, the symbol of justice.

However, Britain's best-known skywatcher dismisses this explanation as poppycock. "If the wise men spotted those planets and thought it marked the coming of Jesus, they couldn't have been very wise," remarks Dr Patrick Moore, who adds that the coming together of planets is not a particularly rare event on the cosmic scale.

He suggests that responsibility could lie with a sequence of meteors (also known as shooting stars) streaking across the sky at different times. A meteor is the streak of light produced by a small particle of interplanetary dust entering the Earth's upper atmosphere and burning up. "If these had been going east it would have explained the star of Bethlehem guiding them," Dr Moore says.

He also points out that many of the most remarkable planetary conjunctions are invisible from the Earth. One such event will take place on May 5, 2000. On that day, Venus, Mercury, Mars, Saturn and Jupiter will be as close to each other as beads on a choker. According to experts at the Royal Greenwich Observatory in Cambridge, the convergence of the planets is indeed likely to take place unseen. "Our tables say that the planets will be behind the Sun," says Dr Peter Andrews, from the observatory.

Dr Andrews also points out that what might, at first, seem to be a remarkable coincidence happened a mere 33 years ago, in 1962. "The five planets were as close then as they will be in 2000, but they would have been invisible as well." So it seems that an invisible spell of planetary two-stepping cannot explain the biblical vision either.

Amateur astronomers disappointed at this unresolved question can take heart from a series of cosmic spectacles due to come our way over the next few years. Dr Moore thinks that comet Hale-Bopp, discussed in last week's Science Briefing, may be the brightest comet since the famed appearance of Halley's comet in 1910. "Comets, like politicians, are unreliable, but it may well be spectacular," he says. The other major event is the total eclipse of the Sun in August 1999.

In the meantime, the bright winter sky contains enough gems to enthral the amateur stargazer. Venus will be particularly luminous over the coming months, and Mercury, Mars and Saturn can all be seen after sunset. Those hoping for a glimpse of the guiding Star of Bethlehem will have to hope for a miracle.

Full of beans

BRITISH scientists have pinpointed an environmentally friendly way of boosting the size of crops such as grapes and runner beans.

Traditionally, farmers use chemical sprays to make fruits and vegetables plumper and longer. But these can cause an increase in pollution and the risk of residues building up in wildlife and man. Now British scientists have found a way of genetically controlling growth in plants, paving the way for a range of crops, trees and pot plants with novel properties.

The researchers, based at several institutes, universities and company laboratories, have unravelled the mechanism which controls production of the key growth hormones — chemicals called gibberellins. More importantly, they have identified and made copies of the genes which produce the hormones in the flowers, stem and fruit so that different parts of the plant can be controlled.

Tests on genetically engineered thale-cress, the botanical equivalent of the laboratory mouse, have been carried out with encouraging results. The scientists have, for the first time, managed to grow cress with seed-pods that are both smaller and bigger than normal ones by boosting or reducing hormone concentrations in the plant.

The research, funded by the Government's Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council and companies which include Zeneca and Ciba Geigy, is being spearheaded by Dr Peter Hedden of the Long Ashton Research Station, at the University of Bristol.

Dr Hedden says that there are scores of potential applications. For example, a shorter, sturdier stem will help more wheat to survive in high winds. More gibberellins also speed up conifer seed production, which is important in commercial plantations. The technique may also be used to boost the size of fruits such as seedless grapes.

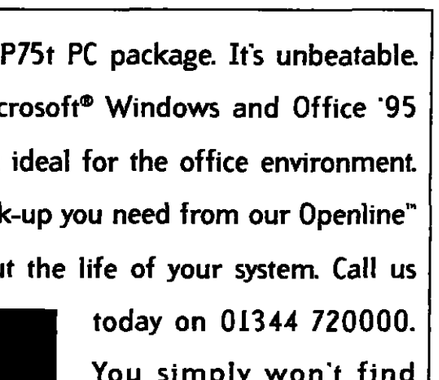
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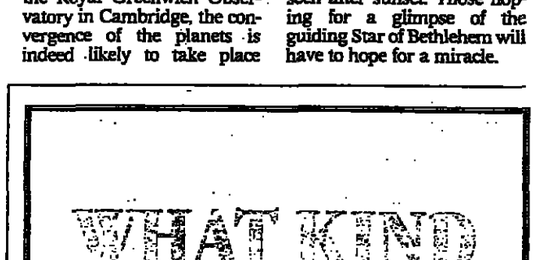
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The death of the dinner party

Are we all too tired — and too poor — to entertain our friends in the grand style? **Mary Killen** looks at a revolution sweeping the dining tables of Nineties hostesses



KOBAL COLLECTION

A grand Hollywood dinner party, from *This Thing Called Love*, in 1941. In today's minimalist climate, hostesses are saving money and mental energy by holding a supper party

FLICKING through a 1949 issue of *American Vogue* the other day, I came across an article on the subject of dinner parties. The author was "Wallis Windsor".

"My forte, if so pretentious a word applies," wrote the Duchess, "is the small, intimate dinner party. Any dinner of more than 16 people I consider enormous. More than eight persons means no soufflé — always a melancholy omission — and more than 12 condemns the staff to two servings.

"I consider ten the ideal number for dinner. Ten ensures a varied and contrasting company, yet one that can be seated around a table in sufficiently close proximity for general conversation." How fascinating it was to read through 1,000 more words of "royal" tips for successful entertaining. And royal nominations for the greatest hostesses of the Western world . . . "and for bringing together all kinds of people in a gay, airy but flawless setting — statesmen and painters, journalists and mathematicians, bankers and authors — I have never known anyone to equal Lady Mendl. She mixes people like a cocktail and the result is sheer genius."

I, too, enjoy mixing people like a cocktail and like everyone else in the Eighties I gave wildly extravagant Wallis Simpson and Lady Mendl wannabe dinner parties. Today there is no question of my issuing invitations to a dinner party in the 1949 Wallis Simpson sense, nor even in the 1989 sense. Who could afford to give one after Lloyd's and the recession and, in my case, the clampdown of the credit card lenders? The dinner party is dead. Enter, *faute de mieux*, the age of the supper party.

What is the difference? Expense, mainly — of both money and mental energy. Dinner parties involve buying in all the drinks anyone could possibly want both before and after, and hiring someone to hand round and wash up *afterwards*.

Far better, for a *nouveau pauvre* hostess, to take advantage of the national mood of exhaustion among thirty-to-fortysomethings — many of whom have young children — and issue instead a more casual invitation. "Come to supper" has an implication of easy familiarity; guests feel they can turn up late, not particularly dressed up and there will be the likelihood of seeing friends, or at least people that *they* already know, with whom they will not have to "make an effort". If the guests are casual, *the hostess reciprocates*. People can sit around swigging £5-a-bottle wine and snacking on olives and tapenade until such time as *something simple and cheap* like a leg of lamb can be withdrawn from the oven when it's ready — generally at about 9.45pm on a typical *London weekday evening*.

> Everyone is so tired these days; they just want to blob out

> The last thing you want is to meet people you don't know

Guests are usually starving from 6pm but they don't mind waiting till 9.45 because anything is better than having to shop, cook and wash up yourself after a harrowing day at the office. They are too tired in the Nineties. They don't mind coming to supper because it is a way of blobbing out.

"No," says Jo Farrell, who entertains at least once a week with her art dealer husband Gerry. "I haven't asked anyone to dinner for years. I call it supper — the reason being that supper implies 'Go home at eleven thirty' and Gerry always wants people out by then . . ."

Perhaps one day the dinner party will return, but for the moment, the supper party makes perfect sense. The big spenders of the *Eighties* are now admitting that their parents were right about not spending money you didn't have and this is reflected in the new parsimony. Recently I went to a supper party where the hostess showed no shame about serving fresh pasta with herbs and salad as the main course. It was delicious but still slightly startling.

If you can afford to entertain at all in the Nineties the likelihood is that you will be a member of a partnership where both of you are working, and that means working late. One of you will come back at about seven and start throwing things in the oven.

Ian, 37, who lives in Kennington, is typical. "We have nice linen napkins, which my wife inherited, but I never gave formal dinner parties and never liked them with their implications that they were to do with somehow showing off at the same time as being a minefield of *faux pas*. The food's much less important now — people are spoilt and used to eating interesting things. The point of the supper party is the other people and the wine and the relaxing . . ."

In the Nineties we are far more ruthless and intolerant about meeting people who may bore us or make us tense. We want old friends or people we already know because we are too tired to feign an interest in someone new.

Your guests in London, what might be called the groovy middle classes, leave their offices at about 6pm at the earliest and make their way home through the traffic, arriving at about seven. They have their bath, a glass of wine, make a sequence of phone calls and before they know it, it is 8.30pm and time to prise themselves out of their warm lairs to set out, somewhat resentfully, across London towards their supper party.

Jo Farrell, who lives south of the river, confirms that her guests, who are invited at 8.30, invariably turn up at 9.20 on a weekday evening "complaining about the traffic. Then we sit down ten minutes later . . ." (Usually to eat something like cheese soufflé — "all you have to buy is eggs and cheese" — Thai chicken, and jelly with double cream. "People love jelly because they never normally get it.")

"I never see anyone further afield than Notting Hill Gate or Shepherds Bush at the outside," says Charlotte, 35. "Of course, everyone who used to live in Chelsea has now moved to Notting Hill anyway, but as for going to somewhere like Clapham, just forget it . . .

"And my heart sinks if I walk in to a party and there's somebody there that I don't already know, or know of . . . and I find I am sitting next to them." Even the Duke and Duchess of Westminster have specially designed telly trays. In the country people tend to spend weekday evenings slumped in front of their television sets and entertain, if they do, at weekends, where they can include people from London.

The heritage expert Hugh Massingberd says: "In the old days grandees felt it their duty to invite the humbler members of the county every so often to a ball, a reception or a garden party, rather as though they were the local royalty. Now that they no longer have the wherewithal for large-scale entertaining, their stately homes are frequented only by friends from London and a few favoured locals with whom they have interests in common."

But the age of the supper party has its dire consequences. It means that politicians only ever meet other politicians and journalists, glamorous and trendy media people don't meet enough ordinary people — and vice versa. Yet people still want to meet others outside their world. As Massingberd says: "It does one the world of good to meet someone who doesn't know who you are . . ."

But Nineties people are too exhausted to meet new people. Physically and mentally drained by their days at the office and their young children, they don't want to chit-chat or ask the new person on their right about themselves. If you wanted to spend an evening with the late Miron Grindea, the editor of *Adam* magazine, you would spend the evening talking about Kafka or other high-minded things: no personal remarks at all. Now, even at the most distinguished literary dinner party, people want to go straight into the gossip.

"The dinner party used to be society's entertainment," says Massingberd, pointing out that the whole Season evolved from the fact that the aristocracy, so firmly rooted in the country, would come up to London at this time of year to meet others and thus make themselves sophisticated in this way.

"Dinner parties used to be entertainment but now it is much more difficult to tempt people out from under their duvets and away from their television screens. What *makes any sort of gathering* enjoyable is the knowledge that there will be at least five people there that one already knows and likes. New people just drain your energy and we have lost the skill of coping with bores."

So goodbye swapping people round between courses, passing the port and the ladies leaving the room. And goodbye to never mentioning politics, religion, money . . . or sex.

Cherry brandy to Häagen-Dazs

Nick Foulkes on dishes through the decades

THE SIXTIES: This was the era when everybody drank much more at dinner: cocktails to start with for the men, a schooner of sweet British sherry for the ladies. Everybody was pleasantly tight by the time they staggered to the table, where the starter was something uncomplicated and alcoholic like Charentais Melon with a splash of port, perhaps tomato soup with a splash of cream, or turtle soup with a splash of sherry.

Coq au vin as a main course demonstrated an agreeably Francophile tendency, as did boeuf bourguignon, both of which dishes benefited from hefty amounts of red wine. Beef *often appeared at dinner parties*, sometimes served on a bed of Uncle Ben's rice as beef Stroganoff, or in the guise of carbonade of beef.

To keep the alcohol levels high, *rum baba was the perfect pudding*, otherwise it might have been strawberries Romanoff: pulverised strawberries mixed with cream and ice-cream then served with . . . strawberries. In those innocent days, deep-fried cream was also a fine pudding.

After which it was an Irish coffee; the great social skill of the day was to pour cream over the back of a teaspoon so it sat on top of the lethal mixture of coffee and Irish whiskey. More adventurous households went for Calypso coffee with Tia Maria. Then it was a couple of balloons of cognac — cherry brandy for the ladies. Before you knew it the evening had just "flown by" and it was time to get behind the wheel of the E-type — which you would wrap around a lamp-post on the way home.

THE SEVENTIES: Avocado and prawns, pâté (either chicken liver or Ardennes), or corn on the cob swimming in half a pound of New Zealand butter were the hors d'oeuvres of choice.

It is amazing to think how deeply the now neglected dish of corn on the cob inveigled itself into the national culture; at one time those little wooden handled prongs, which were jammed into either end of the cob, and colour-coded into pairs, were a staple on every wedding list. Similarly important on the "with it" wedding list of the day was the fondue set: used for either cheese or meat.

If the chatelaine had spent all day lying down zonked out with Valium, these were suppers that required a minimum of preparation.

Culinary adventurers might have experimented with chicken cooked in one of those obscure clay receptacles purchased from Habitat and they liked to display their awareness of gastronomic trends with a pudding of cheesecake, after which it was time to flop down on the beanbags with a calvados and talk about David Hockney.

THE EIGHTIES: The Thatcher decade might have started in a blaze of chilli con carne, garlic bread and Bulgarian cabernet sauvignon, but we got sophisticated pretty quickly.

Soon it was a trio of mousses (avocado, salmon and smoked mackerel), followed by some exotic delicacy, perhaps satay sticks with peanut sauce quickly whipped up from a pot of honey and a jar of Sun Pat or, if one worked in the City and lived in Docklands, it was a beautifully arranged plate of sushi which had been delivered minutes before one's Hugo Boss and Armani-clad guests arrived and were served a glass of Australian Chardonnay.

Puddings were chocolate roulade or crème brûlée, with small glasses of that pernicious pudding wine, Muscat de Beaumes de Venise, after which it was time to try out the espresso machine.

THE NINETIES: Dishes are deceptively simple, couscous, salads, pasta, risottos, roasted garlic and grilled vegetables. It is as well to announce that you grow all the herbs yourself.

The socially correct prandial gift is either a small box of exquisite handmade Belgian chocolates or a white truffle you just came across on a business trip in northern Italy. For pudding, tubs of Häagen-Dazs or Ben and Jerry's ice-cream are served using fancy family silver as scoops, after which refuse brandy and ask for a mint tea.

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Matthew Parris



■ I could a tail unfold whose slightest twitch would reveal the very essence of the man

The stair-treads in my London flat are metal, and in socks one can slip. Descending last week, I did so, landing heavily on my bottom then bouncing neatly down the remaining treads in the same posture, like a stunt actor in a slapstick comedy. As I picked myself up, it struck me how lucky it is that we do have bottoms, although in common with many Englishmen, I have never quite outgrown a childish tendency to find the wobbly bits of the body comic rather than alluring.

Anyway, no permanent damage. Or so it seemed. But the following day a new pain in an unfamiliar place appeared. I had bruised my coccyx. This is the tiny bone at the base of the spine which Italians call "the holy bone". Apparently the coccyx is all that human beings now have left of what was once our tail; the rudiment: just a little bony stub.

Mine felt sore, but by the time of writing this the discomfort is almost forgotten. I can't, however, banish a speculation triggered by it. What a pity we don't have tails any more!

> John Major would have a grey tail, plain but quite strong

You may think that as a troubled world approaches the end of a year, this column would have more important things to think about. Whither, for instance, the single currency?

Whither indeed; but, apropos of nothing, do you think that if we did have tails they would be furry or bald? My guess is that, like our scalps, tails would usually be hairless at birth but would soon acquire a fluffy patina of hair. It would almost certainly be the same colour as the hair on our heads, though I fear the phenomenon of brownish head-hair with ginger tail might apply. Robin Cook would have a completely ginger tail and, sadly, Neil Kinnock's would be bald in patches, with freckles.

Men's tails would tend to go bald, while women would keep lustrous and finely coiffed tails well into old age. They would tint and dye them, perm, ringlet and ribbon them. Baroness Thatcher's would be magnificent. Barbara Cartland would do hers in poodle-like pompoms, with pink bows. Nancy Reagan's would be so styled and set that it would graze legs when she whisked it.

But we digress from the serious issues of our age. How long can this ceasefire in the Balkans hold?

How long indeed. But, also, how long do you think our tails would be? I suspect that though the agony aunts in the teenage magazines would insist that size isn't everything, and it's what you do with your tail that counts, there would be a fashion-premium on long ones. It would be classy to have a slender tail which swept right down to the ground. Vulgar people would have short, thick, stubbly tails, with dandruff.

And tail-control. I think, would be a sign of good breeding. We would instinctively swish our tails from side to side to show enthusiasm or affection (boyfriends meeting girlfriends off trains would knock over bystanders with wildly wagging tails) but, as with cats, there would also be that irritated flick: in queues at banks, for instance, or when you can't get a caller off the telephone. A degree of natural expressiveness, through the tail, would be tolerated — even encouraged — but only when polite. Children would be taught when and when not to wag. Office manuals on inter-personal skills would warn against that giveaway tail-flick. Waitresses in Burger King would be instructed to accompany each "have a nice day" with a demure little wag. Tails would be kept totally motionless at all times, or perhaps quivering slightly, in the presence of royalty. Naughty children would tie their mothers' tails together while they were gossiping.

But again we wander from topics of importance. How will the arithmetic of this week's Commons vote on EU fisheries policy work out? The Prime Minister's authority is at stake.

Indeed it is. And Mr Major would have a grey tail, wouldn't he? Plain but quite strong. Tony Blair's would be a *tiny* bit thinning in places, but not so as you'd notice: he'd have fluffed it up a bit with a blow-dryer. The Queen Mother's would be simply lovely: silky and white with a ruched floral-print drape for special occasions, and — well, just *regal*.

The big question, you protest, is whether the Tories can fight their way back in the polls. The other big question is whether and when tails would be covered. Would they ever be worn inside the skirt or trousers, coiled, or strapped up the back; or would they always be out? Fashions might have changed over the centuries, the Victorians having exposed only the tip.

And what of jewellery, tailwise? The diamante tail-choker; the single tail-stud, punk fashion; the classy male tail-pin, silver from Aspreys? What of the shaved tail, the Mohican tail, the use of tails to hold on when standing in buses; yobs tail-wrestling over the saloon bar table; lovers canoodling, tails entwined, in the snug bar; touching tails under the table;, amputating tails for shoplifting — as practised in Saudi Arabia and advocated by right-wing Tory backbenchers . . .

We have hardly begun. Only the faintest bruise remains around my damaged coccyx, but with me forever is this speculation over how much we lost when we lost our tails.

Tony Blair is one of the young generation who understand modern problems, but does his party?

Gallant little engine, but too much freight

William Rees-Mogg

In 1996 I expect a substantial recovery in public support for John Major and the Conservative Party. At present, the polls show Labour in the lead with around 55 per cent, the Tories second with 25 per cent, and the Liberal Democrats third with 15 per cent. These poll figures have been confirmed by European elections, local government elections and by-elections. If public opinion were to divide in this way at a general election, the Conservatives would win 100 seats or fewer, losing 70 per cent of the seats they held in 1992, or their equivalent after redistribution. That compares with about 250 seats held in 1966, 200 in 1945, and 150 in 1906, the three worst defeats in this century for the Tories.

I doubt if this will happen, though it might. There is no law which states that an unpopular and divided government must recover just because a general election is called. A more likely result would be Labour 45 per cent, the Tories 35 per cent and the Liberals 15. That would require an exceptionally big recovery; it would mean a 10 per cent swing back to the Tories between this Christmas and the general election, which will presumably be held in the autumn of 1996 or the spring of 1997. The only trouble with such a recovery, from the Tory point of view, is that it would still produce a result much like that of 1945, when the Labour lead was only 8½ per cent. The Tories, if they do improve their current support by two-fifths — not an easy task — will still win only about 200 seats; Labour will have an overall majority of 150. Of course, the Tory recovery could be even bigger, but 50 Tory MPs have already announced that they will not be standing, and there is an orderly queue for retirement still to come.

Even a government on its last legs retains the influence of office, taking the day-to-day decisions, formulating policy and making the headlines. Its supporters tend to be appointed to the key quango posts. It commands the organisation of politics. I remember in 1974 being thrown out of the totally non-political post of a governor of Heythrop College, London University, by an incoming Labour administration; ministers could not bear even that scrap of patronage to be retained by someone they felt to be unsympathetic. If Labour does get in with a large majority, the Establishment will change guard. Until Labour gets in, the Conservative culture will linger on, even though most people regard it as doomed.

It has been harder than usual to get the feel of what a Labour government might be like, because one cannot know how well Tony Blair will be able to mould a Labour government in his own image. He manages to win most of the conflicts in opposition, but old Labour remains very strong in the party as a whole. It dominates the trade unions, still has great strength in Parliament, and, so far as one can tell, among candidates likely to be elected. Of the senior members of the Shadow Cabinet, John Prescott is old Labour, Gordon Brown's rather foggy speeches on economic policy have old Labour elements, and Robin Cook is well to the left of Tony Blair, at least on the economic issues. The true Blairites, such as the able Peter Mandelson, owe their political position to Blair himself.

A further difficulty in assessing Labour is that Tony Blair has not been put under much pressure by the Tories. Like any sensible politician, he does not give unnecessary commitments; if he is allowed to stay with generalities he will do so. The Tories have been on the defensive for so long and has been debating Europe internally to such a degree that it has left Tony Blair free to avoid making precise statements of policy which might later embarrass him.

He is however very conscious of the pressure from the Left, and particularly from newspapers such as *The Guardian*. Yesterday in *The Observer*, he defended himself against what he called "the thesis you will find regularly peddled in the pages of the left-leaning newspapers". He detected this thesis in the BBC television series *The Wilderness Years*. "It assumes that 'idealism' is essentially the ground the Bennite Left occupied," he said. "This was electorally unpopular, so it all had to be vacated, and the party taken to the right. It may be necessary, this thesis wearily concludes, but it is a shame all the same."

Such an attitude certainly exists. Many Labour supporters would say that their heart tells them "old Labour", even if their head tells them "new Labour". Nor does the sympathy of commentators like myself, who admire Blair but distrust the sincerity of his party's conversion, help him in any way. It merely gives further ground for the sneers that he will make a good Conservative prime minister, sneers which are only too common already.

In his *Observer* article, Tony Blair analyses the challenges of the world as he sees them. Once again, cross-examination, in this case from a left-wing point of view, elicits the clearest statement of a person's real views. "Those values — solidarity, social justice, equality, community — are as good today as they ever were. What we have to confront, however, is how to implement them in the modern world, in a global economy, in an age when demands on the welfare state have changed and grown, when old industries have gone and more will work at home, in small businesses or be self-employed. When there is a technological revolution, a breakdown in social or moral norms leading to massive insecurity and fear, and when people are fed up with politics and centralised government, the issue is not whether to be radical, but what being radical means for a new generation."

Tony Blair's value system belongs to the Left. When he emphasises "solidarity, social justice and equality", an equally radical right-wing theorist would probably emphasise "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness" or some such formulation. But his analysis of world reality is shared by them. Globalist economic policy, expectation of change in the welfare state, recognition of changes in work patterns, adaptation to the technological revolution, concern at the breakdown of social order and the fear it causes, determination to decentralise government are all themes common in the writings and speeches of the modern radical Right, in Britain and the United States.

Tony Blair's policies will follow from his values, and will be different from those which would come from more libertarian and less egalitarian value systems. Yet the challenges he identifies are the same as those recognised by radical right-wing politicians such as John Redwood and Newt Gingrich.

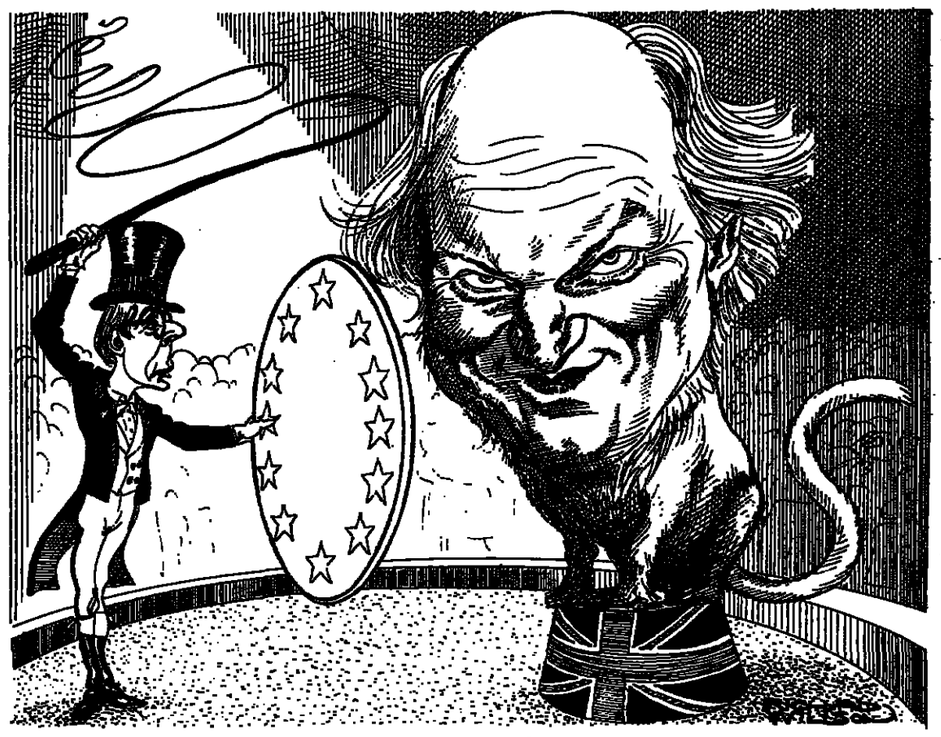
This is partly an issue between the generations, though many of the younger members of both principal parties have failed to see how the world is changing. The younger politicians do have the better chance: Newt Gingrich sees what is happening, Bob Dole does not; John Redwood sees it, Kenneth Clarke does not; Tony Blair sees it, John Prescott does not. None of the grand old men of Europe understands what is happening at all, though I once found real signs of understanding in a conversation with Silvio Berlusconi.

Tony Blair's problem is much the same as that of "The Little Engine that Could". His brave little locomotive has to pull the heavy freight-train of Labour's past over the mountain. "Puff, puff, chug, chug, went the Little Blue Engine. 'I think I can — I think I can — I think I can'." That story ends happily with all the good little boys and girls getting their toys, and the Little Blue Engine steaming down the other side of the mountain, saying "I thought I could". I too think Tony Blair can win the election, but that is the point at which the mountain becomes much steeper. The larger his majority, the more difficult the mountain will prove to be.

Can the sceptics be tamed?

The Referendum Party could damage Major, argues

Peter Riddell



Whenever Europe is mentioned, the Tory party is inexorably drawn to public infighting. It does not matter how carefully John Major manoeuvres to balance the rival factions, or how many "keep calm" statements are issued by David Howell and other former ministerial stalwarts. The underlying tensions cannot be long suppressed. Tomorrow's likely revolt over fisheries policy is merely a symptom of this malaise.

These arguments are largely unnecessary. Mr Major's European policy may be an exercise in political survival on the Wilson model (Harold rather than Woodrow); it may beg many long-term questions (over the inter-governmental conference, and by underestimating the likelihood of Germany and France moving ahead with a single currency); but in its unheroic, pragmatic way it avoids commitments which do not yet have to be made. There is no need to take a decision on a single currency for more than two years yet, and by then its viability will be much clearer. Even then British participation is highly improbable. That approach has kept the Cabinet truce since the spring.

Any shift away is blocked by Kenneth Clarke and Michael Heseltine. The Chancellor could not support a manifesto pledge to rule out joining a single currency in the lifetime of the next Parliament. He believes this would not only send the wrong signal to the rest of Europe, but would effectively rule out British participation for ever. If in not the next five-year Parliament, then when? So Mr Clarke's move at the Madrid summit to pre-empt further discussion by reiterating the Cabinet line has infuriated vocal sceptics such as John Redwood and Bill Cash. They have denounced the Chancellor for being "out on a limb". But the Government's credibility would be fatally undermined if he, and probably other ministers, were forced out of office. That could turn a likely electoral defeat into a rout.

Mr Major will attempt to reassure the sceptics with the promise of a referendum. As he implied in Madrid, any recommendation in favour of a single currency by a Cabinet headed by him would be followed by a referendum. This has so far been opposed not just by Mr Clarke and Mr Heseltine but also by sceptics such as Michael Portillo, because it might worsen party divisions.

The 1975 referendum provided only a very short-term release for Labour's tensions over Europe. Mr Major seemed, however, to hint that he would not grant a temporary suspension of Cabinet collective responsibility, as Harold Wilson did in 1975. Ministers would have to back the decision or quit. The promise of a referendum would probably be accepted by the Cabinet, including the pro-Europeans, as the least bad option. So strong are feelings that a referendum would be the only way of securing popular consent, and legitimacy, for so momentous a decision. That is almost certain also to be Labour's view, as Robin Cook suggested yesterday.

That may not be enough to satisfy hard-core sceptics and Sir James Goldsmith. For them, the issue is Britain's relationship with the European Union as it exists already. It is hard to take Sir James's democratic credentials seriously. He is an authoritarian populist like Ross Perot, claiming unique insights into the views of the people, yet impatient with the restraints of representative politics. In a recent BBC interview, Sir James complained about the next election being phoney, and said he did "not give a damn about politicians, who are a fifth-rate bunch". His proposal for a party which would seek power solely to hold a referendum on Europe before dissolving itself is not only alien to our parliamentary system, but is daft. The only result would be to damage the Tories, setting back the sceptics' cause.

Nonetheless, Sir James cannot be treated as just another cranky businessman with more money than sense. His ability to tap popular resentment against Brussels was shown in the 1994 European elections. And he has money in millions. It is impossible to estimate how well such a well-financed single-issue party would do. The 24 candidates of Alan Sked's UK Independence Party won an average of 3.3 per cent of the vote in last year's Euro-elections, and 19 other anti-Maastricht candidates gained an average 4 per cent. But this was an election specifically about Europe, held in mid-term, when voters often back protest candidates.

A general election is about who runs the country, and fringe parties usually get squeezed. According to a recent MORI poll, Europe comes eighth on the list of issues which will be most important in deciding people's votes. Professor Ivor Crewe, a leading psephologist, has said the Referendum Party would be lucky to get 1 per cent of the total vote. But the publicity that Sir James might attract, and the fierce hostility to Brussels of some groups such as fishermen, could boost its support. It is by no means clear that all of this would come from previously Tory voters: in the 1994 Euro-elections, support for the anti-Maastricht candidates came from across the board.

Nevertheless, even by taking only slightly more support from former Tories than from elsewhere, the party could damage Mr Major's prospects. The Tories currently hold ten seats with a majority of less than 1 per cent, and 18 with a margin of less than 2 per cent after adjustment for the new boundaries. It is highly unlikely that Sir James's party could of itself decide the election, but it could be a nuisance in a few marginal seats.

The promise of a referendum on a single currency is the last card which Mr Major has left to play without risking an open Cabinet split. It is now up to the sceptics whether they put their desire for an outright commitment against British participation ahead of the Tories' slim chances of presenting a common European line ahead of the election.

RIDDELL ON MONDAY

Home from home

THE CHELSEA residents of Cadogan Gardens, that leafy and peaceful enclave, are bracing themselves for a battle between rival hotels next year. The fashionable square looks set to become a centre of building activity over the next few months. In November, Cliveden plc took over the 25-bedroom Draycott Hotel, which is to become the Cliveden Townhouse next spring; and last week Peter de Savary took over the Fenja, a smaller hotel with 12 rooms just a few doors away.

Cliveden plc has a head start. The trusty butler, Michael Holiday, who has worked at the company's country house for ten years, has already been installed as general manager in London, and £1 million is being spent on the refurbishment. The rooms are to have theatrical names such as "The Olivier Room", and guests will be able to enjoy the use of some "very special bathrobes", which Holiday is too cautious to describe at this early stage.

Plans for the Fenja are less advanced, but de Savary — smitten, he says, by the hotel's "Edwardian charm" — actually bought it from John Lewis and John Tham, who own Cliveden. He too wants to create a *pied-à-terre* in London in the style of his headquarters, Skibo Castle near Inverness, and will spend hundreds of thousands of pounds on the Fenja over the next year.

● *An optimistic publisher called Greenwood Press is currently advertising "An American Biographical Guide to 100 British Television Personalities", which is clearly a must for transatlantic visitors stumped by British sit-coms. It is all-too honestly titled "Some Joe You Don't Know" — but acquaintance doesn't come cheap at £47.95.*



"Have you any plans for the new year?"

DIARY

Nessie and Peat

FURTHER evidence has emerged of the existence of the Loch Ness monster. Nessie has suffered the final indignity, and her droppings are being sold by mail order at £7.50 (p&p inc). Alasdair Hilleary, the Highland cartoonist known as Loon, is offering them for sale in a presentation plastic box, but he refuses to say where he finds them.

One clue is that his father-in-law Lord Burton lives on the shores of Loch Ness at Dochfour, and in the past Lord Burton has passionately argued the case for Nessie. However, the monster droppings bear a remarkable resemblance to peat.

Boys own

DESPITE their tendency to dig each other in the ribs and to rustle sweet-papers under their cassocks in the choir stalls, the Westminster Cathedral Choir School is actively recruiting new choirboys.

To swell their ranks, the school has launched a Christmas advertising campaign with posters featuring a number of angelic little faces in ruffs. Mothers inspired by the televising of Joanna Trollope's *The Choir* earlier this year should apply to the Master of Music if they are "Catholic, aged between seven and nine, and enjoy singing".

Follicles

THE Social Market Foundation, the think-tank beloved of Conservative ministers, appointed a new director last week. Roderick Nye is an amiable chap with a remarkably direct approach to problems.

At the Tory party conference this year, he found he had forgotten his shampoo. He called his wife in London with an urgent request for her to send it up to Blackpool by courier. The hair-balm was immediately dispatched by motorcycle messenger, and the Nye locks kept their glossy sheen throughout the week.

A friend explains: "He didn't want to buy some and have to carry it around all day, because he wasn't going back to the hotel until late at night."

His nibs

AS ONE OF the signatories of the Bosnian peace agreement, John Major was allowed to keep the elegant pen that he used to sign the treaty last week. The presentation pens came from one of the most prestigious manufacturers of writing instruments in Paris, and cost well over £100 each.

As the first signatory to the Nolan committee report, the Prime Minister will doubtless be recording the item in the Register of Members' Interests.

Toothfully

A VITAL PROP went missing last weekend on the set of a film of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, directed by Adrian Noble. A set of ass's teeth for the character of Bottom went missing when a cleaner mistakenly threw them away, and the staff and cast at the aptly-named Bray Studios looked everywhere for the donkey dentures.



A Bottom with teeth

After fruitless searching, a Wimbledon dental technician was hired to work all weekend to reproduce the specially-made mandibles for the actor Desmond Barrit. "It wasn't easy," says Paul Arnott, the film's producer. "The teeth had to be jutting out and stained — as if the donkey had been smoking a hundred a day for years."

Half-heart

THE FORMER Editor of the *Sunday Express*, Eve Pollard, made some disparaging comments on radio last week about Charles Lewington's commitment to the Tory cause. Lewington, the smooth new director of communications at Conservative Central Office, seems to have a recurring problem with commitment. His ex-fiancée, Jessica Davies, was reminded by this of Lewington's half-heartedness. As she wrote in *The Mail on Sunday*: "It was fear of that same c-word that caused him to call off our marriage the day after we had chosen our china at Peter Jones." But she still wishes him well.

● *Yesterday, the first day of the general release of the film* Sense and Sensibility *in the United States, Hugh Grant's first line proved to be unwittingly hilarious. He stars as Edward Ferrers, and his opener "I have a fear of strangers." One Broadway cinema-goer says, "the entire audience hooted with laughter".*

P·H·S

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RUSSIA VOTES

After a free election, time for Yeltsin to hand over

Despite the predictable gains of the Communists, some good still emerged from the Russian elections. It was an achievement that they took place at all — on schedule, in an orderly fashion and with an unembarrassing turnout. For all their disappointments with reform, cynicism about politicians and anger at the hardships their country is now suffering, Russians have not given up hope in pluralist democracy.

Even the Communists, who look set from the early results in Siberia and the Far East to be the largest party in the new Duma, recognise that these elections will not change the power balance in Russia. The Constitution gives overwhelming power to the President and his Government; the Duma can propose, obstruct and alter legislation, but it cannot veto Mr Yeltsin's policies or cut off funding for Mr Chernomyrdin's Government. As polling began, Mr Yeltsin invoked the Red Scare and the spectre of old-fashioned totalitarian Communism to herd voters into his supporters' lists. But he knows, as well as Gennadi Zyuganov, the Communist leader, that today's party is not quite the same omnipotent, sclerotic, monolithic Communist Party of the Soviet Union — if only because it has been weakened by the dissolution of the Soviet Union itself. It professes no ideological conflict with the West, promises to abide by the rules of democratic politics.

Time will tell whether it really follows the path of "reformed" communists elsewhere. Communism was imposed on eastern Europe by Soviet armies only after 1945, while in Russia the system is of greater antiquity and indigenous. Old habits may die harder there. At the very least the Russian communists have ostensibly accepted the need for market reform, even if they want to slow the pace. The election may not alter the course set by Mr Chernomyrdin. But it is a significant indicator of the political mood. And it brings into sharper focus the political battle for the presidency next summer. Both Mr Chernomyrdin and Mr Yavlinsky would be powerful candidates. Mr Zyuganov ought by political arithmetic to do well, too, but he lacks personal charisma. Vladimir Zhirinovsky, the nationalist leader of the right-wing Liberal Democratic Party, appears to have discredited himself by his sinister, buffoonish behaviour and even Aleksandr Lebed, the popular former general, may not find the tide of Russian nationalism enough to carry him further forward. From a Western perspective, our interests hinge upon establishing whether or not a hard-line consensus is emerging in Russian foreign policy — shared by democrats, nationalists and communists alike.

The man who should draw the main lesson of the election is President Yeltsin. He should step down soon, but may attempt another term. He has brought Russia through tumultuous times and established a reasonably firm foundation for post-Communist democracy. He has done the State some service and they know it. The election, only the second open contest for more than 70 years, was fair, free and a mature expression of popular will. The future of Russia is no longer bound to the political survival of Mr Yeltsin. His own health is still uncertain, and he could now hand over, with honour, to his protegé Mr Chernomyrdin, a man who has demonstrated his ability to compromise without betraying the principles of reform. That experience will be all the more important in dealings with the new Duma, where the election result will force *cohabitation à la russe*.

JOHN AND GILL

Tory education policy remains muddled

"Don't mess with Gill," John Major told the Tory party conference this year. The Prime Minister may live to regret this playful warning about Gillian Shephard, the Education and Employment Secretary. As the epitome of the solid Centre Right, Mrs Shephard ought to be the last of his worries. Yet education has again become a source of political embarrassment for the Tories at a time when party strategists are presenting schools policy as a key element in the Prime Minister's bid for re-election.

Mrs Shephard is reported to be strongly opposed to the Prime Minister's proposal to allow church schools to opt out of town hall control without a parental ballot. Last week, her department announced that its plans for privatisation of student loans were being shelved for a year, at the cost of £100 million. Most damagingly, a presentation document by the Education and Employment Secretary leaked in September mounted a strong attack on the Government's preoccupation with "mechanics" — code for opting out — and "change for change's sake". Weeks after the Prime Minister claimed in an interview with *The Times* that his agenda for education remained radical, Mrs Shephard appeared to be acting as a spokesman for the teachers' unions.

In the present row over opting out, Mrs Shephard is right, but for the wrong reasons. There are indeed good grounds to preserve the current system where a vote must be held before schools become self-governing. The parental ballot has been at the heart of the Government's drive to encourage all schools into the grant-maintained sector. Opted-out schools are different precisely because they have chosen to leave council control. To compel them to do so would be to change fundamentally the nature of the opting out policy.

But Mrs Shephard is reported to oppose the proposed change for quite different reasons: because it would upset the churches and interested parents whose objections might be damaging in the run-up to an election. The original drive to make all schools grant-maintained was inspired by conviction rather than pragmatism. It reflected the belief that the Government had a moral responsibility to persuade all schools to leave town hall control. The option to force schools to become self-governing was always open to ministers in the 1980s. But they reasoned — rightly — that the cultural revolution in education which they sought would come about only if parents and teachers felt they had a stake in it. The revolution could not be imposed from above. A sustained and aggressive campaign of persuasion was required to usher schools into the promised land.

Mr Major seems now to be edging towards a foolish volte-face and a manifesto commitment to withdraw all schools from council control compulsorily. Mrs Shephard, in contrast, counsels caution. What is lacking is any evidence of the Government putting a coherent case to the public — either way. If the Government believes that those schools which were destined to opt out have already done so, so be it. If it believes that the battle is only half-fought, it should continue to fight, and to persuade schools that their profitable future lies in the grant-maintained sector. Mrs Shephard advises the politics of caution. Downing Street edges towards the politics of compulsion. But — in education policy, as elsewhere — it is the politics of conviction that is needed.

CHARLOTTE'S IN A NAME

A Thomas by any other name would sound as sweet

Charlotte has vaulted ten places to top the league of most popular first names for girls whose births are announced in *The Times*. The name has overtaken last year's winner, Sophie, and is certain to come top of the thousands of names of the year. Thomas persists as the favourite name for boys.

The fashion in first names is tidal and mysterious. The Births columns of *The Times* parade an elite socio-economic cohort, and record different names from those of the country at large. And if homophonic spellings were counted as one name, Catherine and her variants would rise into the top ten, and Isabella (10th) with her less Spanish variants would beat Charlotte to come top. Because of the phenomenon sociologists call "aspirational naming", names that score well in *The Times* list become popular nationally a few years later.

There is no simple explanation of why the Italianate feminine form of Charles should be the name of 1995. It first became popular in Britain at the marriage of George III with Charlotte of Mecklenburg-Strelitz in 1761. Its popularity was increased among romantics by being the name of the heroine of Goethe's *Sorrows of Werther* and then of the short-lived daughter of George IV. Royal families used to influence the fashion for names such as William and George. But in a less deferential age, Elizabeth, Philip, Charles and Diana have had no discernible effect on the naming of babies, whether described in their announcement as beautiful or not.

Thomas has been a popular name for laymen since the Norman Conquest. It became the commonest man's name because of the fame of Thomas à Becket, the pilgrim attraction of Canterbury. Hence the medieval phrase, *every Tom, Dick and Harry*.

Deductions are a lucky dip in so personal a matter as the naming of children. But we may observe that once-famous names have grown old-fashioned. For example, Herbert and Reginald, May and, alas, Mary. Others wear their dates on their (record) sleeves, such as Kylie and Elvis, Grace and Samantha, actress and role from *High Society*. Literature pulls its weight with Alice and Wendy, Justine and Rhett. But it is a puzzle how badly Shakespeare scores with Hamlet and Romeo, Portia and Cordelia. Some names such as Lucifer, Adolf and Judas are taboo. Others such as Winston have shifted regionally and nationally.

Roman Catholic countries, with their approved lists of names, generally of saints, that must be used if a child is to be legally recognised, offer less scope for onomastic deduction. Countries where anything goes for a name produce such infelicities as the American surnamed Lear who has named his daughters Shanda and Gonda, and his son Bando. He should not be surprised when they rebel as unkindly as Goneril and Regan, two other Shakespearean names that did not catch on. But our other annual *Times* name-day shows that you may propose your daughter's name to the world as Charlotte and your son's as Thomas. But by the time they dispose themselves to the world on St Valentine's Day they are likely to be known as Piggytoes and Squidgy.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Common sense in damages for libel and injury claims

From Mr Gerald Isaaman

Sir, The sane decision by the Court of Appeal to introduce realistic changes to the assessment of damages in libel cases is perhaps more significant than it appears (report, December 13; Law Report, December 14). Indeed, given the current controversy over the roles of government and judiciary, it is welcome to note that after the ignored pleas over many years for reform of the law of defamation, it has been brought about, at a stroke, by three wise men.

This must result, inevitably, in an opportunity for the Press Complaints Commission (who will not hear complaints where legal action is threatened) to play a more effective role in condemning outrageous reporting in the press, and ensuring that accuracy, let alone truth, becomes the touchstone of responsibility in the media.

Now that swingeing damages have been wiped off the agenda, the horrendous cost of mounting a claim for libel will make them less likely, the Press Complaints Commission becoming the body to which the more serious complaints will flow.

The Appeal Court decision also throws open the question of what will happen to libel actions now in the pipeline or being heard, viz the action by politicians against newspapers, in particular Peter Bottomley against the *Sunday Express* and Jonathan Aitken against *The Guardian*.

This is not to ignore the fact that the setting up of a small-claims court could cope with the vast majority of libel actions, and not to ignore the necessity of newspapers continuing to play their vital part in exposing injustice, corruption and hypocrisy by relying totally on true facts, not fantasy and tittle-tattle.

Yours sincerely,
GERALD ISAAMAN,
The Garrick Club,
15 Garrick Street, WC2.
December 13.

From Mr John Rubinstein

Sir, Many will welcome the robust approach of the Court of Appeal which reduced the ridiculously high damages awarded to Elton John by the jury which had to consider a false allegation of an eating disorder.

Whilst this should lead to more sensible general damages awards in libel cases, will the tipping of the balance back in favour of libellers be reflected by a corresponding willingness, certainly in the media, to resolve legitimate complaints promptly and responsibly?

Aggravated and exemplary damages can still be awarded in defamation cases. Thus, if libellers do not try reasonably to make amends and to compensate fairly the wronged party, juries will still be able to make such awards to reflect their concern at the treatment to which the complaining party has been subjected.

It is to be hoped that this long-overdue guidance from the Court of Appeal and the power of juries to condemn unrepentant behaviour by libellers will between them reduce the need for painful and expensive show trials. The real losers, however, may be the media, starved of column inches of journalism fuelled by reportage of these libel circuses.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN RUBINSTEIN,
Manches & Co (solicitors),
Aldwych House, 81 Aldwych, WC2.

From the General Secretary of the TUC

Sir, The Court of Appeal's ruling that libel damages should be assessed on the same basis as personal injury awards could prove a welcome step towards common sense and justice for injury victims.

Trade unions take legal action for over 125,000 people every year who have suffered injury or ill-health at work because of management negligence. Those victims are often appalled that the legal system treats the bruised ego of a celebrity more generously than the broken leg of a union member.

Interestingly, some libel lawyers claim that a £50,000 damages award is unlikely to prove an effective disincentive to a newspaper minded to print slurs and innuendoes. Working people are therefore entitled to ask how effective is an award of just £20,000 for the loss of an eye in deterring management negligence.

The truth is that damages awards for people who suffer injury or illness at the hands of their employer are far too low, as Law Commission research demonstrates.

Now that the Court of Appeal has introduced a sense of proportion into libel damages, we need to review damages for personal injury.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN MONKS,
General Secretary,
Trades Union Congress,
Congress House,
Great Russell Street, WC1.

From Mr Thomas Osborne

Sir, As a personal-injury lawyer I take great exception to the comment by the Master of the Rolls when reducing the jury award to Elton John that it was "offensive to public opinion" that libel winners were awarded more than a "helpless cripple".

In my experience the public are often outraged that the helpless cripple does not receive an award similar to that originally given to Elton John.

Many lawyers specialising in personal-injury claims would like to see the return of juries for awards for those who suffer catastrophic injury. That might introduce a level of common sense.

Yours sincerely,
THOMAS R. OSBORNE,
Osborne Morris & Morgan (solicitors),
Danbury House, West Street,
Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire.
December 15.

Cheers and tears of drinking limits

From Mr Graham Buxton

Sir, Your leading article today [also letters, December 14] assumes that people drink according to whether they are passengers or drivers. Last year 678,500 drivers were breath-tested by the police and 14 per cent (over 93,000) were found to be over the legal limit or refused a test. Thus perhaps 14 out of every 100 drivers on our roads at any one time could be over the legal alcohol limit and this surely justifies the BMA and Harriet Harman linking drinking and driving to the potential dangers of higher recommended drinking levels.

For the Department of Health to release these new levels immediately after the Government's Christmas campaign against drink-driving is not only counter-productive but insensitive to those innocent families who have already lost loved ones killed by drunken drivers.

Yours faithfully,
GRAHAM BUXTON
(Honorary Secretary,
Campaign Against Drinking and Driving),
83 Jesmond Road,
Newcastle upon Tyne.
December 13.

From the Secretary of the British Medical Association

Sir, You accuse us in your leading article of insulting the public by linking the new safe drinking levels with drink-driving, yet it was the Government who announced a relaxation of drinking levels only one week after the launch of the Christmas drink-drive campaign, and whose Transport Minister, Steven Norris, appeared at the safe-drinking press launch.

We did not and would not want the two issues confused, and it is precisely because the connection is so strong that we considered the timing abysmal. If you add the confusion which will no doubt be caused in the public's mind due to the complex array of messages put out yesterday, then the only Christmas present Mr Dorrell has given us will be a belated macabre gift when, in a few years' time, the statistics of alcohol-related illnesses and accidents are released.

Yours faithfully,
E. M. ARMSTRONG,
Secretary,
British Medical Association,
BMA House, Tavistock Square, WC1.
December 14.

From Major John FitzGerald

Sir, Your leader tells us "not only is alcohol good for us but ... levels have been set far too low".

Nearly five years ago Professor Oliver James, Professor of Geriatrics at the University of Newcastle and one of the governors of Research into Ageing, used almost the same words at one of that charity's briefings when talking about his research into diet and the elderly. This blast against the health fascists happened long before many researchers "discovered" that first two, and later three, glasses of red wine a day were positively essential to good health.

Yours in the best of ruddy health,
JOHN FitzGERALD
(Joint County Director, Research into Ageing (North Yorkshire)),
68 Heworth Village, York.
December 13.

From Mrs Mary Shaw

Sir, Smoking is bad for you — tax the poor addict. Drinking is good for you — tax the poor addict.

Yours faithfully,
MARY SHAW,
74 Dumbleton Avenue,
Rowley Fields, Leicester.

From Mr A. P. Ridge

Sir, Mr Dorrell's recommendations on drinking refer exclusively to its effect on our physical health. They have nothing to say about the effect that four glasses of wine a day might have on our efficiency, judgment or moral fibre.

Yours faithfully,
A. P. RIDGE,
Ennismore, 27 Moorgate, York.
December 13.

From Ms Jennifer Fowler

Sir, According to your leading article a recent study of 12,000 British doctors found that their death rate fell with increased drinking. I would prefer to know what happened to the death rate of their patients.

Yours sincerely,
JENNIFER FOWLER,
21 Deodar Road, SW15.
December 13.

Maths standards

From Mr Andrew Dutton

Sir, I am advised by my daughter's independent junior school that complex long division has been dropped by the national curriculum and despite her being a bright and able pupil she will not be taught it. The school says that at secondary school children are allowed calculators so a knowledge of more than the most basic long division is unnecessary.

When I was at secondary school we used log tables and slide rules but we were still taught long division, which I consider a fundamental foundation block of mathematics education. Calculators can also perform addition, subtraction and multiplication so why not drop teaching those as well?

The fact that universities are having to send students entering engineering courses on special booster courses to bring their maths up to speed would suggest that A-level mathematics standards must have dropped.

It seems as if the national curriculum is penalising our more capable pupils instead of treating them as a valuable resource, which this country will need if it is to compete in this increasingly technological world. If the independent schools feel obliged to follow the national curriculum they should choose carefully and retain those elements which will permit our more able children to progress to the highest standards.

Yours faithfully,
A. H. DUTTON,
Oakbank, Bagshot Road,
Brookwood, Surrey.
December 15.

Pulling power

From Mr Andrew Varley

Sir, If Tony Benn (Diary, December 6) believes that the steam-driven sewage ejection system in the Commons lavatories "certainly dealt with Disraeli", then surely the date you give for its installation, 1887, must be wrong. Otherwise the great Conservative must have been possessed of a posthumous power other politicians might envy.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
ANDREW VARLEY,
72 Southgate Street,
Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk.

Bar complaints

From Mr Neil Addison

Sir, Mr Ronald Thwaites, QC, implies that employed barristers should not be allowed to vote in the ballot on the Bar's new complaints system (letter, December 11). This ignores the fact that the Bar is by law one profession governed by one Bar Council.

Employed barristers have to accept restrictions on their rights of audience, which are imposed on them by private-practice barristers. Similarly barristers who want direct access to clients have to accept restrictions imposed by other barristers who are still stuck in a 19th-century time warp.

The logic of Mr Thwaites's position would mean that any group of barristers would have the right to decide on the rules they wanted applied to themselves, ignoring the views of the rest of the Bar. Is that really what he wants?

Sincerely,
NEIL ADDISON
(Member,
General Council of the Bar),
5 Garsdale Road,
Whitley Bay, Tyne and Wear.
December 13.

From Mr Andrew Twigger

Sir, I am concerned that Mr Thwaites appears to have appointed himself a spokesperson for "many barristers of all kinds and at all levels of seniority". Speaking only for myself, I trust that the public will not think that his views represent the attitude of all members of the Bar (employed or otherwise).

I see nothing inconsistent in believing both that barristers should not be immune from criticism in respect of the work they do in court, and that the proposed Bar complaints system is still a step forward. Nor is there any reason to suppose that a suitably experienced "layman" cannot make perfectly fair and proper determinations of complaints, nor anything wrong in allowing some redress to clients whose cases have been prejudiced by their barrister's "bad manners", whatever that phrase may mean. The need for vigorous cross-examination is no excuse for rudeness.

Unless we take steps to reassure the public that the Bar is not an excuse to charge large sums of money, irrespective of the quality of the service we provide, we shall find a future government (of whatever political persuasion) abolishing the independent Bar altogether. I assure Mr Thwaites that I shall be voting in the ballot to which he refers. I suspect my vote will not be exercised in the way he may wish.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW TWIGGER,
3 Stone Buildings,
Lincoln's Inn, WC2.
December 11.

Violence on TV

From Mrs Mary Whitehouse

Sir, How many more people will have to pay with their lives and happiness before the broadcasting authorities move effectively against the crude violence which characterises so many of the films on our TV screens?

Research carried out last year by the National Viewers' and Listeners' Association into the content of 111 films transmitted on all terrestrial channels revealed that they contained 492 violent assaults and 81 incidents involving the criminal use of knives of various kinds — and all this in the name of entertainment.

The sad truth is that the broadcasting authorities still fail to deal effectively with those in their employ who transmit material which makes nonsense of the obligations under which they are supposed to operate and which, by a process of desensitisation, hardens all our hearts.

Surely Parliament must now enact measures to deal with this social evil.

Yours faithfully,
MARY WHITEHOUSE
(Founder and President Emeritus),
National Viewers' and Listeners' Association,
All Saints House,
High Street, Colchester.

Sport on TV

From Mr Ralph Glazer

Sir, When ITV takes over the broadcasting of Formula One (report, December 14; letter, December 15), will the races be stopped for commercial breaks?

Yours sincerely,
RALPH GLAZER,
66 Shaftesbury Crescent,
Laleham-on-Thames, Middlesex.

A great mountaineer

From the President of the Alpine Club

Sir, It was characteristic of Sir Charles Evans (obituary, December 9) that, after playing a vital part in the first ascent of Everest in 1953 he chose to continue with his planned exploration and survey of an area to the west, rather than to return to civilisation, to be applauded and fêted with the rest of the party.

After visiting the Himalaya again, with a New Zealand expedition, he was the natural choice to lead a reconnaissance of Kangchenjunga in 1955. His leadership was unassuming, but masterly. He carried a load to the top camp himself, helping to pave the way for the first ascent next day.

The team effort involved was emphasised by his cable reporting their success; with the agreement of those involved, it announced only that the peak had been climbed by the expedition, without the names of the two summit parties. His simply written account of the expedition is a minor classic.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL WESTMACOTT,
President,
Alpine Club,
55/56 Charlotte Road, EC2.
December 11.

From Mrs Sylvia Disley

Sir, I must challenge the statement in your obituary that "there was no intention" that Charles Evans and Tom Bourdillon should attempt the final assault on Everest in 1953.

Lord Hunt, in his book *The Ascent of Everest*, makes it clear that the two men started out in the hope of reaching the main summit and, but for trouble with their oxygen equipment, could have made it to the top. Indeed, at one stage the expedition members at the final camp truly thought that they had done it — an "electrifying moment", according to Hunt.

Had it not been for the complications with their oxygen equipment, it is fairly certain that the two names which would have gone into history would have been Charles Evans and Tom Bourdillon.

Yours faithfully,
SYLVIA DISLEY,
Hampton House,
Upper Sunbury Road,
Hampton, Middlesex.

From Mr Peter Dodd

Sir, Your obituary records that Sir Charles Evans was "born a Welsh-speaker". Was this linguistic phenomenon recorded in your journal at the time of his birth?

Yours faithfully,
PETER DODD,
Top Farm, Horton, Bristol, Avon.
December 11.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046.

Caring by numbers

From Mr Simon A. May

Sir, Perhaps Mr J. A. E. Gorst (letter, December 15) could tempt his motor insurers to further heart-warming intimacy by letting it be known that he is not averse to some pally abbreviation.

One recalls Noël Coward's response to T. E. Lawrence (then skulking behind "338171 Aircraftman Shaw"): "Dear 338171, or may I call you 338?" (Sheridan Morley, *A Talent to Amuse*, Penguin, 1974).

Yours faithfully,
SIMON A. MAY,
29 Piper Road,
Kingston upon Thames, Surrey.
December 15.

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
December 16: The Duke of Edinburgh this afternoon attended a Luncheon and opened the West Stand of the Rugby Football ground at Twickenham.

His Royal Highness subsequently watched the Match between England and Western Samoa.

KENSINGTON PALACE
December 16: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon this evening opened the Norwich Playhouse, Norwich, Norfolk.

Her Royal Highness was received by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of Norfolk (Mr Timothy Colman).

The Hon Mrs Wills was in attendance.

YORK HOUSE
ST JAMES'S PALACE
December 16: The Duchess of Kent, Patron, this evening attended the Cancer Relief Macmillan Fund Carol Concert, Eton College, Eton, Berkshire.

Birthdays today

Field Marshal Lord Bramall, KG, 72; Miss Frances Crook, director, Howard League for Penal Reform, 43; Mr David Crossland, chairman, Airtours, 49; Lieutenant-Commander I.E. Fraser, VC, 75; Mr Christopher Fry, dramatist, 88; Pamela Lady Harlech, 61; Professor M.J. Harrison, Vice-Chancellor, Wolverhampton University, 54; Miss Rosemary Leach, actress, 60; Sir Geoffrey Lofthouse, MP, 70; Lord Merlyn-Rees, 75; Mr J.C.S. Mott, civil engineer, 69; Mr Albert Pacey, director general, National Criminal Intelligence Service, 57; Miss Annette Page, ballerina, 63; Dr Joyce Reynolds, Roman historian, 77; Mr Keith Richard, Rolling Stones guitarist, 52; Lord Robens of Woldingham, 85; Miss Arantxa Sanchez Vicario, tennis player, 24; the Earl of Shrewsbury, 43; Mr Steven Spielberg, film maker, 48; Mr Joe Wade, trade unionist, 76; the Right Rev R.K. Williamson, Bishop of Southwark, 63; Mr W.H. Yates, senior partner, Knight Frank and Rutley, 60.

Today's royal engagements

Princess Alexandra, as patron, will attend a Celebration of Christmas at Guildhall at 6.30 in aid of the Mental Health Foundation.

Naming day

The infant son of Mr and Mrs Shiraz Chowdhury was named Liam Chand at Hillingdon, Middlesex, on Sunday, December 17, 1995.

Memorial services

Professor Sir Robert Grieve
A memorial service for Professor Sir Robert Grieve, Professor Emeritus of Glasgow University, was held on Saturday in St Giles' Cathedral, Edinburgh. The Very Rev Gilleasbuig Macmillan officiated.

Professor David Daiches and Mr Tom Weir gave readings. Sir William Kerr Fraser gave an address.

Professor Eric B. Birley
A memorial service for Professor Eric B. Birley, a former Master of Hatfield College, Durham University, and Professor of Roman-British History and Archaeology, was held on Saturday at Hatfield College, Durham. The Rev David Glover, chaplain of the college, officiated.

Professor James Barber, Master, and Professor Rosemary Cramp read the lessons. Professor Anthony Harding, Department of Archaeology, read *A Portrait of Agricola* by Tacitus. Dr Brian Dobson gave an address. Members of the family, Vindolanda trustees, many friends and academic colleagues were present.

Lecture

Foundation for Science and Technology
Lord Butterworth, CBE, DL, was in the chair at a lecture and dinner discussion held at the Royal Society on Wednesday, December 13, 1995. Professor Robert M. Worcester, Sir John Egan and Professor Lewis Wolpert spoke on "Do Government and Industries' Scientists and Engineers Listen to Public Opinion?". The evening was sponsored by COPUS and Zeneca plc.

Nature notes



Tawny owl: time to hunt on winter nights

TAWNY owls are hooting noisily again: they have already occupied their spring territories, and will be nesting by March. On these long winter nights they have plenty of time to hunt for small roosting birds: they mostly catch starlings and house sparrows, but will also take a blackbird or song-thrush.

Woodpigeons are foraging in the fields in large flocks: nowadays, they particularly like the oilseed rape shoots when they first come through. This year they are also common in beech woods, since there has been a good harvest of nuts for them. Greenfinches are roaming the countryside in flocks looking for persicaria and fat hen plants that still have seed on or scattered around them.

The wind rustles the orange-brown leaves that still cling to the beech and hornbeam hedges. A hardy daisy or two can be found on some lawns. Most reptiles are hibernating, but life goes on below the surface in rivers and ponds. Mayfly larvae or nymphs, which have thin feathery bodies, burrow in the mud searching for scraps of vegetation. Dragonfly nymphs patrol the mud and the water weeds more vigorously, looking out for tiny living prey, which they seize with their sharp pincers.

DJM

Forthcoming marriages

Mr A.W.M. Bryceson and Miss K.P. Boam
The engagement is announced between Andrew William Maclean, elder son of the late Mr Michael Bryceson and of Mrs Michael Bryceson, of Essex Villas, London, W8, and Katharine Penelope, younger daughter of Major-General and Mrs T.A. Boam, of Bury Gate, West Sussex.

Mr A.J. McCullagh and Miss K.L. Riley
The engagement is announced between Andrew, son of Mr and Mrs John McCullagh, of Cookham Dean, Berkshire, and Kate, daughter of Mr Jonathan Riley, of Warwick, Warwickshire, and Mrs Mary Walker, of Childswickham, Worcestershire.

Mr F.A. Neyens and Miss C.A. Burrowes
The engagement is announced between Frank Neyens, of London and The Netherlands, and Catherine, daughter of the late Mr Bobby Burrowes and of Mrs Burrowes, of Dorrington, Lincolnshire.

Mr S.A. Ordish and Miss B.M. Sajous
The engagement is announced between Simon, son of the late Mr Michael Ordish and of Mrs Ordish, of Chelsea, SW3, and Brigitte, younger daughter of M and Mme Michel Sajous, of Vouvray, France.

Mr J.R. Roney and Miss N.R. Quantock
The engagement is announced between Julian Robert, son of Mr Robert Roney, of Chillsford, Suffolk, and of Mrs Elizabeth Roney, of Aldeburgh, Suffolk, and Nadia Ruth, eldest daughter of the late Dr Derek Quantock and of Mrs Naomi Quantock, of Somerby, Leicestershire.

Marriages

Lieutenant Commander N.J. Race, RN, and Miss C.M. Parry
The marriage took place on Saturday, December 16, in Exeter Cathedral of Lieutenant Commander Nigel James Race, son of Mr and Mrs James Race, of Knowle, West Midlands, to Miss Clare Margaret Parry, younger daughter of Canon and Mrs Kenneth Parry, of Cathedral Close, Exeter.

Mr P.C. Rainey and Miss H.R. Staples
The marriage took place on Saturday, December 16, at the Temple Church, London EC4, of Mr Philip Rainey, eldest son of Mr George Rainey and of Mrs Mavis Storey, both of Whitley Bay, Northumberland, to Miss Helen Staples, only daughter of Mr and Mrs John Staples, of Allesley Village, Coventry. The Master of the Temple, Canon Joseph Robinson, officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Mrs Jennifer Staples and Miss Joanne Freeman. Mr John Roy was best man.

A reception was held at the Middle Temple Hall, and the honeymoon will be spent abroad.

Mr B.P. Robinson and Ms A.R. Williams
The marriage took place on December 16, 1995, at Westminster Register Office between Barrie Robinson, son of Peter and Joan Robinson, of Cleethorpes, and Anthea Williams, daughter of Graham and Janna Williams, of Hampstead.

Mr B.J. Simms and Miss K.M. Stratton
The marriage took place on Saturday at Woodbastwick, Norfolk, of Mr Ben Simms, son of Mr Philip Simms and Mrs Jacqueline Simms, of Greenwich, London, and Miss Kate Stratton, daughter of Mr and Mrs Mark Stratton, of Witton, Norfolk. Canon Robert Baker officiated.

A reception was held at the Old Hall, Woodbastwick, and the honeymoon will be spent abroad.

DANILO KRSTANOVIC



Dr Carey steps out in Sarajevo yesterday after meeting Bosnian leaders

Carey asks Sarajevo to forgive

THE Archbishop of Canterbury yesterday urged Sarajevo citizens to find forgiveness in their hearts to allow peace a chance to take root.

"A land that has no room for forgiveness is a land that will live in the past. It will have no future," Dr George Carey told a joint Mass in the city's Catholic Cathedral.

He told a packed congregation that they were meeting at a time of "hope and repentance" in the Christian calendar. Acknowledging that it would be difficult to forget, he urged them to put three and a half years of brutal war behind them.

"We have seen your suffering, your grieving and shared your pain," he said. Several worshippers wept quietly as they prayed for friends and relatives killed during Sarajevo's long years of siege.

Earlier, the archbishop denied that the Church of England had not done enough to help to bring peace to Bosnia. He told BBC Radio 4's *Sunday* programme that he and other church leaders had spoken out strongly against ethnic cleansing and other injustices.

He was responding to criticism in the *Muslim News*, which circulates in London, that he and other churchmen kept silent for four years while the conflict took place.

Appointments in the Forces

Royal Navy and Marines
Rear Admiral N.R. Essenhigh to be Assistant Chief of Defence Staff in succession to Air Vice-Marshal G.A. Robertson in March 1996.
COMMANDER: P W Fortescue to *Invincible*, 5.3.96; S C Martin to *Britannia*, 12.7.96; R T Stanton to MoD Bath, 26.1.96.
MAJOR: S V Balm to 42 CDO RM, 22.3.96.

The Army
LIEUT GENERAL: S C Grant CB to be Comdt RCDS, 20.12.95.
MAJOR GENERAL: C F Drewry to be GOC UKSC(G), 20.12.95.
BRIGADIER: R M Wilde to be Comd 52 Lowland Bde, 18.12.95.
COLONEL: J R W Dutton to HQ Land, 18.12.95.
LIEUT COLONEL: R H Bounsall, RA, to be CO 47 Regt RA; N R Forrestal, RE, to RSME Minley; R R Holmes, R Signals, to Nacisa; D P Hughes, R Signals, to HQ Scotland; D E Wilkes, RA Ch D, to HQ Woolwich Gar. All from 18.12.95.
Retirement: C D Parkinson, late RADC, 23.12.95.

Royal Air Force
AIR COMMODORE: J H Haines RAF Leuchars, 18.12.95; P V Harris HQ I Gp, 22.12.95; R W Clark HQ LC, 22.12.95; I S Corbitt HQ PTC, 22.12.95; P J Scott RAF St Athan, 22.12.95.
GROUP CAPTAIN: N A Bairsto to HQ LC, 19.12.95; M J Remlinger to RAF Waddington, 19.12.95; T P Brewer to HQ STC, 22.12.95; R W Gault to AWC Bentley Priory, 22.12.95.
WING COMMANDER: R L Gill to RAF Leeming, 11.12.95; R Betteridge to HQ LC Brampton, 18.12.95; R A Lewis to HQ STC, 18.12.95; N W R Wilkinson to RAF Halton, 18.12.95; J D Bell to RAF Cranwell, 18.12.95; G A Williams to RAF Odiham, 18.12.95.

Retirement

Mr Anthony Machin, QC, is retiring from the Bar after 43 years in practice at 1 Paper Buildings, Temple, EC4.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Charles Wesley, preacher and hymn writer, Epworth, Lincolnshire, 1707; Joseph Grimaldi, clown, London, 1779; Edward MacDowell, composer, New York, 1861; Hector Hugo Munro ("Saki"), writer, Akyab, Burma, 1870; Sir Joseph John Thomson, physicist, Nobel laureate 1906, Manchester, 1856; Francis Thompson, poet, Preston, 1859; Paul Klee, painter, Berne, 1879; Betty Grable, actress, St Louis, Missouri, 1916.

DEATHS: Antonio Stradivari, violin maker, Cremona, Italy, 1737; Alexander Adam, educator, Edinburgh, 1809; Thomas Dunham Whitaker, topographer, Blackburn, 1821; Jean Baptiste de Lamarck, naturalist, Paris, 1829; Samuel Rogers, poet, London, 1855; Robert Tyre (Bobby) Jones, golfer, Atlanta, Georgia, 1971.

America officially abolished slavery with the ratification of the 13th Amendment, 1865.

Dinner

The Maccabaeans
Judge Dame Rosalyn Higgins, QC, was the guest of honour at the annual Chanukah dinner held last night at Lincoln's Inn. Sir John Balcombe, President of the Maccabaeans, presided. Sir Ian Gainsford and Professor Merton Sandler also spoke.

Royal Russell School

Dr John Jennings, currently Vice-Master of Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School, Blackburn, has been appointed Headmaster of Royal Russell School, Croydon, with effect from September 1996. He was previously at Trinity School, Croydon, and Dulwich College.

The Sovereign's Parade

The Queen was represented by General Sir John Wilsey at The Sovereign's Parade at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst on Friday, December 15.

The following have been granted commissions in the regiments and corps shown, having completed Commissioning Course No 951. The Sword of Honour was won by Junior Under Officer I.W. Addinell and The Queen's Medal by Junior Under Officer M.J.D.F. Gray.

I W Addinell, KOSB, Dunblane HS; A C Addison, AGC (ETS), Elesmere C; C K Antelme, WG, Douai S; D A P Asquith, RLC, Lady Manners S; G M Atkins, RE, King Edward's S; S N Atkins, Int Corps, Malbank S, Nantwich; R Baddeley, RE, Solihull S; B G Baker, PWRR, Arnewood S, New Milton; S L Baker, RAMC, Oswestry S; J M Ballantyne, R Signals, Lord Wandsworth C; S W Barltrop, AGC (ETS), Stamford S; S E G Barnard, R Signals, Badminton S; S J Barry, Kings, Ourndle; M J Beck, R Irish, Coleraine Acad Inst; P A Bedford, RHG/D, Bryanston; G E Bell, AAC, Wallace HS; P A Blair, Para, Belfast HS; J T Blair-Tidewell, Para, Rotorua Lakes HS, NZ; W Bolam, RA, Ponteland S, Newcastle; N A Booth, AGC (ETS), Dane Valley HS; J C C Boyce, RA, Millfield; T G S Bradshaw, AAC, King's S, Worcester; A J Bremner, RE, Morrison's Acad; A R Brown, RA, Abingdon S; J E Brown, Int Corps, Aylesbury GS; P A Brown, RGBWR, Charterhouse; A K Budinger, RE, Tideway S, Newhaven.

R J Campbell, RRW; O W S Cane, RA, Wymondham C; H J L Clark, A and SH, Sherborne; I Clarke, REME, Plume S; S F Coeshott, R Signals, Thongathi S, South Africa; M S Conlan, RA, Elizabeth C; J P Cook, RA, Warwick S; E Cooper, AGC (SPS), Parkston GS; A M Crous, AAC, St Benedict's, Johannesburg; J Cruickshank, RS, Morrisons Acad; S E Cunniff, RE, Chester Catholic HS; L J N Daley, RLC, Old Swinford Hosp; C D Davies, R Anglian, Mander Portman Woodward S; R J de Ferry Foster, QRH, Wellington; W J de Rouet, IG, King's S, Canterbury; D J Denning, RGBWR, Writhlington S, Bath; J A Docherty, RA, Rathmore GS; M N Dommett, PWRR, Wildern S, Southampton; N R M Dymond, RLC, Bideford C.

D B E Ellison, RE, Wrekin C; A M Elwood, REME, Movilla S; M O J Epton, LI, Oundle; J M Evans, R Signals, Llangefni CS; M H Evans, RTR, Sevenoaks S; A C Evanson-Goddard, RLC, Skinners' S; M I Everest, RE, Oakmeeds Commty S; S J Falinski, RLC, Stamford S; W H G Fraser, LI, Charterhouse; K L Free, AGC (SPS), Swindon C; R W Freeman, RRF, Churchers C; R Fullard, REME, Millom CS.

B P Gamble, R Irish, Dromore HS; S N Gardner, RE, St Edward's S, Oxford; A S Gawthorpe, RRF, K Edward VI S; T J Gaynor, Green Howards, Ampleforth; T J Gillies, REME, Yateley CS; J V Goodwin, RTR, Sherborne; A O Gordon, AAC, Christ's Hosp S; M J D F Gray, Para, Bancroft's S; T E Grey, R Signals, Welbeck C; J A Grimshaw, RTR, Grange S; C S Hamlyn, RA, Shiplake C; D E Harrison, RA, St Mary Redcliffe & Temple; R M Harvey, R Signals, St Columba's C; O W R Haslam, KRH, Bishop's Stortford C; F I Hay, R Signals, Morrison's Acad; M E Hayman, AGC (ETS), Monks Walk S; I A Hendry-Adams, King's, Denstone C; D E Hepburn, KOSB, Esher C; D J Hewins, RE, Old Swinford Hosp S; A D E Horne, RA, Eastbourne C; I D Howard, REME, Welbeck C; D J Howson, R Anglian, Lutterworth S; S A James, RLC, Amery Hill S, Alton; V A Jaques, RAMC, Chiswick S; T Jeffries, R Signals, Guilsborough S; J R Jennings, R Signals, St Bernadette S, J A Kay, AGC (SPS), Clitheroe RGS; W H J Keith, D and D, Gordonstoun.

T Large, AGC (ETS), Torquay GS; A D Linehan, Scots DG, Rossall S; J A Llewelyn, RE, Welbeck C; M J L Longman, RTR, King's S, Bruton; M J Lynskey, RA, Princethorpe C; J M Mabbott, RA, Welbeck C; C C MacLeod, RLC, Colchester RGS; H I Macpherson, RRF, Kirkley HS Lowestoft; G J Marsden, RE, Wrekin C; G C Martin, RWF, Blundell's S; V McDonald, RLC, Bexhill Coll; G D McGilton, RA, Regent House GS; A H McGready, REME, Waingels Copse, Reading; A R I McKechnie, RE, Duke of York's RMS; R J Merryweather, RA, Southwell Minster S; I J Middleton, RA, Church Stretton S; K S Miller, AGC (PRO), King's C, Auckland, NZ; C P Mitchell, QLR, South Holderness S; R S Moorhouse, Staffords, Guiseley S, Leeds; C D Moxon, RLC, Bishop Heber HS; J M Murdoch, AGC (ETS), Hamilton Boys S, NZ; J O Murray, D and D, Gordano S.

S J Napier, Para, Hampton S; P R Nathan, KOBR, Oratory S; J M Nicholls, Staffords, Shrewsbury S; H P D S Norton, LD, Rugby; I G Nurse, RLC, Gunnersbury S, Brentford; T J O'Brien, LI, Stonyhurst C; C G S O'Malley, RGR, Grenville C; M C Osborne, AGC (PRO), Framlingham C; P J Oxley, RA, King Edward VI S, Morpeth; S R Parker, RLC, Shrewsbury; S J Partington, LD, King's S, Rochester; J M Pease, AGC (ETS), Stamford HS; M E Peebles, QLR, Bradfield C; N K Pegler, RLC, Charterhouse; A H Philpott, RA, Sevenoaks S; M D Powell, RTR, Bishop Vesey's GS; D Racey, RLC, Welbeck C; F J Rea, RGR, Strathallan S; W J Reynolds, PARA, Charleston Acad; E S Rhodes-James, RLC, All Hallows S; M J G Rimmer, RA, Westcliff HS; A L Robbins, R Anglian, St Edward's S, Oxford; A J Rolfe-Smith, RGR, Wellington; P J Rowell, RE, St George's C, Harare; G A Russell, RLC, Plymouth C; T J Ryan, RA, Merchant Taylors' S.

J J Sampson, REME, Duke of York's RMS; J L A Scott, COLDM GDS, Sutton Valence S; P G Scriven, Cheshire, Dauntsey's S; J S Senior, AAC, Loughborough S; R A J Sernberg, Cheshire, Welbeck C; R J Seymour, R Signals, France Hill S, Camberley; M P G Sharp, AGC (ETS), Bishop Wordsworth S; P M Sheriff, AAC, William Hulme GS; H A E Simms, R Irish, Hurstpierpoint C; B L Southgate, RLC, Horndean Commty S; J E Stephens, QDG, Malvern; C J Stewart, RA, King's C, Taunton; P E G Stewart-Blacker, SG, Fettes; D C Stone, RAMC, St Paul's RC S; G H P Stringer, King's, St Edmund's Sen S; E P Suttherry, RRF, Brentwood S; A D Swannell, RA, Welbeck C; J Swift, RRF, Whitgift S; G Taylor, RA, Worcester RGS; S J Thomas, King's, J Bentley S, Calne; C Thompson, RLC, Donaghadee S, Northampton; D L Thompson, PWRR, Guildford RGS; M A Thomson, AGC (ETS), Stranraer Acad; M Tovell, Para, Windsor Boys S.

A C B Waddell, RLC, Roedean S; C L Walker, RA, Tenbury HS; L C Walker, REME, Neston Co HS; R H Wallace, PWRR, King's S, Canterbury; M J Ware, REME, Churcher's C; I G Warren, Cheshire, Torquay Boys GS; P F Wellington, AGC (PRO), Poltair CS, St Austell; N T Welsh, RE, Methodist C, Belfast; N R White, RLC, Richmond S; N I Williams, RE, Sutton Valence S; S G Willis, REME, Christian Brothers, Bulawayo; S R C Woodiwiss, RA, Highgate S; C W N Woodward, REME, Reigate GS; S N Wright, Green Howards, Durham Johnston CS; N G C Yardley, R Signals, Castle S, Taunton.

Overseas cadets
The following overseas cadets also passed out. The winner of the Overseas Cane was Officer Cadet A. Sarmiento:

M Y. Abuzaid, Bahrain; F Marin, Belize; K D Moody, Belize; Dumisani Bakang Ndzinge, Botswana; H J Ahmed Fairuz H J Zainal, Brunei; V Hon, Czech Rep; P A Badong, Ghana; M A Stephens, Jamaica; L S Wynter, Jamaica; G T Al Daghistani, Jordan; P M Muiruri, Kenya; MC Rono, Kenya; Sheikh M bin A Al Saba, Kuwait; R D, Malta; A bin S Al Mahri, Oman; A bin H Al Kharusi, Oman RGD; Z Shaheen, Pakistan, F bin D Al Hababi, Qatar; K bin M Al Khayreen, Qatar; Goh Wee Tiong, Singapore; H Niranjan Jayasundara, Sri Lanka; T Trim, Trinidad & Tobago; A Sarmiento, Venezuela; C Maregere, Zimbabwe.

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Jesus answered: "You cannot tell by observation when the kingdom of God comes. You cannot say, 'Look, here it is' or 'There it is' for the kingdom of God is among you. Luke 17 : 20, 21 (REB)

BIRTHS

BARRIE - On December 13th 1995, to Emma (née Colville) and Angus, a son, Matthew Charles.

BEVAN - On 12th December 1995, in Hong Kong, to Henrietta (née Warner) and Hugh, a son, Toby David, a brother for Hector and Ruths.

MONSON - On December 8th 1995, to Rose and Guy, a little daughter, Olivia Effie Fortune.

MUSCAT - On December 14th at Pembury Hospital, Kent to Amanda (née Fone) and Julian a son, Oliver James.

PERKINS - On December 11th 1995 at The Princess Margaret Hospital, Swindon, to Jemma (née Plant) and Simon, a son, Joshua Simon.

DEATHS

BLOOMER - On December 13th, peacefully in hospital, Guy, son of the late H.S. Bloomer, much loved by Mollie Bloomer, Mike and Sallie and all his family. He will be sadly missed by his many friends. As Guy wished his body has been donated to benefit medical science, thus there will be no funeral service. No letters please. All enquiries to Johnson McCabe, tel: (01273) 205257.

BRICE - Edgar Pinder - of Brentwood, Essex on December 14th 1995 aged 90, peacefully after a short illness, much loved husband of the late Amy Brice, and loved Father, Grandpa and Great-Grandpa. Funeral service at Christ Church Warley Brentwood on Wednesday December 20th at 1330 hrs followed by cremation. Family flowers only. Donations to the Musicians Benevolent Fund at 16 Ogle St, London W1P 8JE, or to Bennetts Funeral Directory of Brentwood, to whom any enquiries should be addressed.

DEATHS

BOYNE - Gustavus Michael George 10th Viscount, KCVO, JP. On 14th December, aged 64, very suddenly in London. Private family funeral. Memorial service to be announced later.

DOBSON - Sir Denis William Dobson, KCB, OBE, QC. Peacefully on 15th December, very much loved husband and father. Memorial Service to be arranged.

FLETCHER, Professor Charles CBE FRCP, peacefully at home in London on 15th December, aged 84. Dearly loved husband of Louise, much loved father and grandfather. Funeral service at Holy Trinity Church, Clapham Common, at 12 noon on Friday 22nd December. Memorial service to be announced later. Family flowers only, but donations may be sent to the British Diabetic Association, 10 Queen Anne Street, London W1M 0BD

FULFORD-WILLIAMS - Diana Mary, wife of the late Charles died peacefully on 15th December in Musgrove Park Hospital, Taunton. Funeral service at West Anstey, Friday 22nd at 11.30am. Donations to Musgrove Leukaemia Group c/o H.N. Blackmore & Sons, 116 East Street, South Molton, Devon 01769 572338.

HILLS - Joan Dorothy, on December 14th, peacefully at home following a brave fight against a long illness. Beloved wife of Peter, loving mother of Sarah and Michael and devoted nana of Hannah and Emily. Cremation at Lewisham Crematorium, Hither Green on December 21st, at 10 am. Family flowers only please or donations to South Bromley Hospice Care, c/o W. Uden & Sons Ltd., 19 Chalkworth Parade, Queensway, Petts Wood, Kent BR5 1DF.

MORLEY - Martha, on December 15th, aged 91, at Shockerwick near Bath. Beloved wife of the late Charles Morley. Funeral at Bathford Church 12 noon Wednesday 20th December.

HODGE - On December 13th Kathleen Anne, widow of Sir William V.D. Hodge, loved mother of Michael and Gillian, grandmother and great-grandmother. Private committal followed by Remembrance service at St Columba's U.R. Church, Downing Street, Cambridge on Thursday December 21st at 1 pm. Family flowers only. Donations made payable to either The St Columba's Restoration Fund or the R.N.L.I. may be sent to Cambridge Funeral Service, 617 Newmarket Road, Cambridge CB5 8PA. tel: (01223) 416255.

HUGHES - At home after a bravely fought illness on December 15th, Stephen James aged 24 years. Dearly loved son of Marian and Les, brother of Bronwyn, Gillian and Graham, brother-in-law of Phillip; loving uncle to Charlotte, Oliver and Nicholas. Private family interment on Thursday December 21st, followed by a service of Thanksgiving for Stephen at 12.30 pm in Llandaben Baptist Church, Fidlas Road, Cardiff. Donations in lieu of flowers, to St Davids Care in the Community, Fairfields, St Davids, Dyfed. SA62 6QH.

OVERLAND - Jillian Elizabeth Kathleen (née Stanaway-Ivey). Peacefully in Jersey on Thursday 14th December 1995. Loving husband of Tom, Joanne, Anita and Jonathan. Donations in memory may be sent to Jersey Hospice Care c/o The Hon. Treasurer Mr I. Richardson, Reads & Co, PO Box 641, 1, Seaton Place, St Helier, Jersey, C.I. H.W. Maillard & Son Ltd., Funeral Directors. (01534) 37291.

RAYMENT - Suddenly on Friday 15th December, 1995. Lieut. Colonel Clifton Rayment, MBE, formerly of Royal Tank Regiment and Probyn's Horse. Very dear husband of Aileen. Proud and loving father of Sarah, Alastair and Lucinda. Grandfather and great grandfather. Thanks giving service on Thursday 21st December at the Church of Lady St Mary, Wareham, Dorset at 2.30pm. Donations if desired for the R.T.R. Benevolent Fund, Bovington Camp, Wareham, Dorset. BH20 6LL

TOUT - Thomas Frederick and Mary Tout, married December 18th 1895 in Stockport. Still remembered.

ROBERTS - on 15th December 1995 peacefully at Axminster Hospital, Rear Admiral Douglas Roberts C.B in his 80th year. Much loved by Norma and all his family. Private cremation. A Service of Thanksgiving for his life will take place at St Giles Church, Kilmington, Devon on Wednesday 20th December at 2.00 pm. No flowers by request but donations if desired for either Axminster Hospital League of Friends or the Kilmington Branch of the Royal British Legion can be made at the Service or sent c/o W.G Potter F/D, William Potter House, 5 West Street, Axminster, Devon, EX13 5NX. Tel. 01297 34283

ROSSDALE - Dr Eric, suddenly on 14th December. Sadly missed by his wife and family. Funeral at Golders Green Crematorium on 19th December at 3 pm. No flowers please but donations if wished to Help The Aged.

ROSS - Eiriys Gwyneth (Bobbie) peacefully on Dec 15th at Thames Valley Hospice. Dearly loved Mother of David, Allen and Neil. Grandmother of Marc, Alistair and Cora and former wife of Craig. service to be held at East Hampstead Crematorium Bracknell 01344 420314 on Thursday 21st December at 11.00 am to which all friends are invited. Flowers to The Crematorium. Donations if desired to Thames Valley Hospice Windsor. SL4 5RW. A memorial service will be held in Edinburgh in the second week of January. Details to be announced in The Scotsman.

IN MEMORIAM — PRIVATE

BINLAND - Just remembering Richard my lovely husband, on his birthday. Kate.

EZE - In loving and unfading memory of beloved Captain Ifanna (Ike). Suddenly on December 18th 1989. 'Loving Shepherd of thy sheep, Keep him Lord in safety keep, nothing can thy power withstand, none can pluck him from his hand'. Sadly missed by his wife Louie, the Broad-Davies family, his mother, brother, sisters and nephews.

MANNING - Francis (Frank). In memory of our much loved brother, uncle and Godfather on the tenth anniversary of his death. RIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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I would like to wish everyone a magical 1996 and a special thanks to Stuart Higgins for choosing the nine of clubs. regards Howard.

MANY THANKS to Mr Walmsley, Dr Fox, Prof Rutt, Medical Staff of Harley Street Clinic & the team of Manley Western for organisation and successful cochlear treatment that we've had in London. Merry Christmas & very best wishes for the coming new year. From Maria and Alexander Konstantinovic.

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OBITUARIES

FRED URQUHART

Fred Urquhart, short story writer and novelist, died in Edinburgh on December 2 aged 83. He was born in the city on July 12, 1912.



ALTHOUGH he wrote several novels, Fred Urquhart was supreme in the short story, and is one of the small but distinguished band of writers in English in this century who have used the form as their chief creative outlet. Naomi Mitchison's famous comment on him, "Fred Urquhart is a wonderful listener", cannot be avoided when describing his art. Urquhart was not a writer who laid down a structure to control his stories. Much of the time even his plotting was non-existent. He let his characters do the talking, and he had a marvellous ear for all forms of accent and dialect and for those ungrammatical — but often in themselves unconsciously creative — liberties with the language that are the vital strength of the vernacular.

He spent a good deal of his life in southern England after the war. But his creative impulses had their roots in the lowlands of Scotland: on the Firth of Forth and Clydeside: in coastal Wigtownshire where he was at school for a while; and on Tayside, where he also spent some of his childhood days. His stories generally dealt with the lives of ordinary people, viewed sometimes comically but often unsparingly. The cruelty and violence of such lives was a constant theme with him. He was sensitive especially to the violence dealt out to women, which was such a feature of the social milieu about which he wrote. His homosexuality enabled him, perhaps, to portray the female psyche with more than usual insight and tenderness. The ugliness of war (he was a pacifist) was an extension of these concerns.

Born in Edinburgh, the son of a chauffeur, Frederick Burrows Urquhart was educated at Stranraer High School and Broughton Secondary School. On leaving school he worked for some years in a bookshop in Edinburgh. At the same time he began to write, and from the early 1930s onwards had stories published in periodicals as well as broadcast on the wireless. None of these was collected until later and the first book he actually published was a novel, *Time Will Knit*, in 1938. This was a story of working-class Edinburgh life expressed in often gritty dialogue.

When war came in 1939 Urquhart, as a declared conscientious objector, was sent to work on the land. His first collection of short stories *I fell for a Sailor* appeared in 1940. Its title story, about a girl whose first sexual experience leads her into a life of promiscuity and prostitution, was a little too strong for one London reviewer, who primly remarked: "The reader is left feeling that ... with other guidance the girl might have had a happier or more useful life."

In 1944 Urquhart was sent to England to work at Woburn Abbey, the estate of the Duke of Bedford. This made a good base for contacting artistic and literary cirles in London and he soon met the Roberts — the Scottish painters Robert Colquhoun and Robert MacBryde — who had moved to London from Glasgow themselves only a year or two before. He also got to know George Orwell and Rhys Davies.

His second collection of stories, *The Clouds are Big with Mercy*, appeared in 1946. Its main story, too, dealt with the rough and ready sexual contacts that are incidental to war — on this occasion between Scottish laundry girls and a Polish contingent billeted on their small town. By now, however, after six years of war and its social effects, the critics were in a more realistic frame of mind and gave it a warm welcome.

From 1947 Urquhart worked as a reader for a London literary agency and from 1951 was a script-reader for MGM. He produced further volumes of short stories, among them *The Last GI Bride Wore Tartan* (1947) and *The Year of the Short Corn and Other Stories* (1949). There were also two more novels in this postwar period, *The Ferret was Abraham's Daughter* (Urquhart relished title-making) of 1949 and *Jezebel's Dust* (1951). Both of these feature a wanton protagonist Bessie Hipkiss, bred and broken into sex in the gutter and now, in wartime Edinburgh, a prey for marauding Polish and French soldiery. By general consent *Jezebel's Dust* is Urquhart's best novel. Its dialogue has fierce vitality. Only its women's magazine story ending — the heroine is rescued from degradation, married by a kindly GI and spirited away to America — mars what might otherwise have been a novel of tragic stature.

With the market for the serious short story declining, Urquhart took on a number of editing tasks, some of them worthwhile, some of them necessary to keeping body and soul together. In the first category were *Scottish Short Stories* (1957) and (with Giles Gordon) *Modern Scottish Short Stories* (1978, revised 1982). More relaxing (and lucrative) tasks were *Great True War Adventures* (1957), *Men at War: the Best War Stories of All Time* (1957) and *The Book of Horses: The Horse Throughout the Ages in Art and Literature* (1981).

But he kept on writing: there was a final novel, *Palace of Green Days* (1979), which used childhood memories of Perthshire, where his father was chauffeur to the Earl of Breadalbane: and further collections of short stories, notably *A Diver in China Seas* (1980), which was impressive for its insight into its women characters.

With his companion, the dancer Peter Wyndham Allen, Urquhart had moved into a house in Ashdown Forest in East Sussex in 1958. When Wyndham Allen died in 1990 Urquhart moved back to Scotland and settled in Musselburgh. Though always appreciated by the discerning, in his life he did not really receive the acknowledgement that is his due; his reputation can, now, only increase.

VIVIAN BLAINE

Vivian Blaine, singer and actress, died of heart failure in New York City on December 9 aged 74. She was born in Newark, New Jersey, on November 21, 1921.



Vivian Blaine in her most famous role, Miss Adelaide in *Guys and Dolls*

BUT for a lucky chance, and more than a touch of dogged determination, Vivian Blaine's career might have languished on the back lots of Hollywood. As it was, she achieved stardom and lasting fame for her performance in a single role, the splendid Miss Adelaide, perpetual fiancée of gambler Nathan Detroit in the Frank Loesser musical of the 1950s *Guys and Dolls*. She later recreated the role for Joseph L. Mankiewicz's film version, which her songs — she had a pleasant, characterful singing voice — helped to lift above the restrictions of a studio-bound production and a certain tendency to become mired in sentiment.

Blaine, whose original surname was Stapleton, was the daughter of a minor theatrical agent who began booking her for dollar-a-night singing engagements when she was still a small child. She was 20 years old and apparently condemned to touring the country with obscure bands, when she was spotted by a Twentieth Century Fox talent agent and invited to take a screen test.

A contract followed, but Blaine was soon to discover that she was only one of many pretty faces on the Twentieth Century lot, and a contract was no ticket to instant stardom. She was given a few minor roles, then sent to tour on the Forces' entertainment circuit. Finally, after having to take a small part in the Laurel and Hardy film *Jitterbugs* in 1943, she had had enough. She confronted the studio head, Darryl F. Zanuck, and threatened to quit unless she was given something better. The result was a leading role in the 1944 musical *Greenwich Village*.

In the Hollywood fashion of the time, Blaine had to be given a sobriquet. So the studio dyed her hair red and advertised her as "the cherry blonde". The publicity tag, however, could not make up for the fact that she was being given poor material to work with, and a succession of minor musicals in which she starred in the 1940s failed to achieve critical acclaim or success at the box office. At that point her career appeared to be going nowhere.

In some desperation, she decided to try the Broadway stage. The musical *Guys and Dolls*, based on the series of short stories of that name by Damon Runyan, was then being cast, and she auditioned for the part of Sarah Brown, the Salvation Army worker who was later played on the screen by Jean Simmons. She failed to get it. Her personality, said producers Cy Feuer and Ernest Martin, was too strong for the role.

Months passed, and she discovered by chance that the role of Adelaide had become vacant. It was not much of a part, just two songs and a few lines of dialogue, but Blaine took it. She then used that strong personality to enlarge the part during rehearsals into a major role. When the show opened in November 1950, her shrill renditions of numbers such as *Take Back Your Mink*, *A Bushel and a Peck* and especially *Adelaide's Lament*, regularly brought the house down.

Guys and Dolls ran for 1,200 performances on Broadway, and Blaine later repeated the role on the London stage, where she was given a rousing reception by audiences. She also took it into the 1955 film version, with its star cast of Marlon Brando, Frank Sinatra and Jean Simmons, turning in a crackling performance that ensured she was, in fact, outshone by none of these.

She went on to co-star in a number of Broadway productions, notably *A Hatful of Rain* (1956), *Say Darling* (1958) and *Enter Laughing* (1963), and did a few more films over the years. But nothing was ever to match her performance as Adelaide.

Vivian Blaine was married and divorced three times. She leaves no survivors.

PROFESSOR KEITH RUNCORN

Keith Runcorn, FRS, Professor of Physics at Durham University, 1956-63, and at Newcastle, 1963-88, was found battered to death in an American motel room on December 5 aged 73. He was born on November 19, 1922.

A RENOWNED geophysicist, Keith Runcorn played a central role in establishing what later became known as "The Plate Tectonic Revolution in Earth Science". His studies of palaeomagnetism — the permanent magnetism of rocks — in the 1950s provided evidence which underpinned the then still controversial theory of Continental Drift, and helped to elucidate the relative movement of tectonic plates, the large masses underlying the continents.

In later years he also studied the problems emerging from space missions to other planets. At the time of his violent death he was, as usual, making his way to the winter meeting of the American Geophysical Union.

Stanley Keith Runcorn came from Southport, Lancashire. From King George V Grammar School he went to Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge, in 1940 to read electrical engineering. His first taste of research came with his secondment to the Royal Radar Establishment, Malvern, in 1943.

From 1946 he was on the staff of the Physics Department at Manchester University, then under the leadership of Professor P. M. S. (later Lord) Blackett, a formative influence.

At that time, Blackett believed that the newly discovered magnetism of stars and the much older problem of the origin of terrestrial magnetism might indicate a connection between material rotation and magnetic field generation, and had developed a sensitive magnetometer to test the idea. Runcorn was involved with a parallel test, measuring the variation of the Earth's magnetic field in a mineshaft. While Blackett's idea proved fruitless, the instrumental development it stimulated proved invaluable to the future study of rock magnetism.

Appointed assistant director of research in the Department of Geodesy and Geophysics at Cambridge in 1950, Runcorn organised a research group to study palaeomagnetism. One of the first key results of the Cambridge group came from a study of Icelandic basaltic lavas, which showed that the average geomagnetic field in recent geological times had been aligned in a true north-south direction, but had also frequently reversed its polarity. The later result was decisive evidence against Blackett's conjecture.

Runcorn was perfectly aware that rock magnetism might eventually provide valuable evidence for or against the long-standing idea of Continental Drift. Several illustrious geologists and geophysicists had given supposedly incontrovertible proof that it was impossible. Mindful of the possibility that his chosen field of study might be discredited before demonstrating its value to this debate, Runcorn was at first concerned to investigate a subtly related problem — whether there was good evidence for different continents having



moved differently with respect to the spin axis of the Earth. This problem he tackled by collecting rock specimens of different geological ages from the Grand Canyon and other areas of the American West — a region to which he became greatly attached despite the rigours of fieldwork necessarily conducted in the fierce heat of summer.

Appointed Professor of Physics at Newcastle in 1956 (then a part of the University of Durham), he encouraged colleagues to join him in these studies. This work was increasingly supplemented by that of North American geophysicists to whom he had previously lectured.

Together with palaeomagnetic data from the southern hemisphere (where earlier geological evidence for Continental Drift had made attitudes to the idea rather more relaxed) this combined effort was eventually to make the case for profound changes in the Earth's surface having taken place even within a period that amounted to only the last 10 per cent of our planet's history.

Meanwhile, the elucidation of a deep sea floor palaeomagnetism by oceanographic survey had shown that larger units of the Earth's surface than individual continents — the now well-known Tectonic Plates — were engaged in relative movement. In the 1960s Runcorn was interested in whether the geologically recent spate of continental drift had been initiated by a change in a pattern of internal convective movements. He suspected this change was related to the gradual growth of a dense core region for the Earth throughout the whole of its history.

But his attention was increasingly focused on the impending space missions to the Moon and to the planets. Appointed by Nasa, his group was to be a major contributor to the understanding of lunar magnetism. Although originally thought to be a rather minor (and probably rather uninteresting) aspect of the Apollo programme, it turned out to be an intriguing and quite unexpected facet of lunar behaviour.

After his retirement from Newcastle University in 1988, as Sydney Chapman Professor of Physical Science he annually gave a course on planetary problems at the University of Alaska. For the rest of the year, as senior research fellow, he was attached to the space studies group at Imperial College, London.

Runcorn was a man of unconventional lifestyle and informality. He was greatly interested in painting and latterly opera. He also possessed a deep knowledge of ecclesiastical architecture and history. Many Newcastle scientific conference delegates were personally guided by him through his beloved Durham Cathedral. He was, in as much as his travelling allowed, a regular rugby player into his fifties and played squash even longer.

Runcorn was elected FRS in 1965. He played a leading role in initiating a European Geophysical Society and was active in the European Space Agency.

He was unmarried, but is survived by a sister and his mother with whom he had recently celebrated her 100th birthday.

JURGEN WATTENBERG

Jurgen Wattenberg, German U-boat commander who led the largest escape from a prisoner-of-war camp in the United States during the Second World War, died in Hamburg on November 27 aged 94.

WHEN officers in charge of the US Navy's prisoner-of-war camp in Scottsdale, Arizona, received a request from Jurgen Wattenberg for dirt and shovels to build a volleyball court, they were delighted to oblige. It would, they thought, help to keep their 1,700 charges occupied. This was a mistake, but it was hard to blame them. After all, this was only 1944, and the film of *The Great Escape*, which portrayed an almost identical scenario in the escape of Allied prisoners from a German PoW camp, would not be made until 1963.

Wattenberg, who had been captured and turned over to the Americans after his U-boat had been sunk in the Caribbean by three British destroyers in 1942, was the senior German officer at Scottsdale. Had they bothered to think about it, the Americans might have remembered that he had been transferred to the new prison precisely because he had been plotting to dig an escape tunnel from his previous camp in Tennessee.

On arrival at Scottsdale Wattenberg got his shovels and his dirt, and for the next five months supervised a team of men digging a 178ft tunnel which ran 16ft deep under two fences and a road, emerging at a canal well outside the camp. The volleyball court provided a perfect cover for the unnoticed disposal of the excavated soil, until the quantities became too great and the prisoners began to make themselves vegetable gardens instead.

The prisoners made themselves civilian clothes, and even rigged the tunnel with electric lights. Wattenberg, however, added an even more ambitious touch. A stolen map from a local filling station had shown him the Gila River, a thin blue line connecting the canal with the Colorado River which ran down to Mexico. Under the eyes of the camp guards, Wattenberg not only built a three-man kayak to paddle his way to safety, but also constructed a lake inside the prison compound on which to test it.

By early December the tunnel was finished and the prisoners staged several dry runs. They decided to delay their actual escape until Christmas, when they reckoned security would be at its most lax. On the night of December 23, under cover of a noisy party staged by their companions, 25 German PoWs, led by Wattenberg, slipped out through the tunnel and vanished.

The guards did not even know they were gone until 17 hours later, and then only discovered the escape when one of the prisoners turned himself in to the police.

It transpired that Wattenberg had made one small mistake: he had forgotten that small rivers in Arizona are strictly seasonal, and this was the wrong season. When he and his men reached the Gila, all they found was a dried-up channel. The kayak was useless.

One by one the escapers were recaptured over the next month, with Wattenberg himself the last to be found when he was spotted in Phoenix after 36 days on the run. At the time he was 43, a graduate of the Prussian Naval Academy, with more than 20 years of service in the German Navy.

After the war Wattenberg became a beer distributor in Germany. He revisited Arizona in 1984 for a reunion to mark the 40th anniversary of the escape, but was too frail to return for the 50th anniversary ceremonies last December.

He is survived by two sons.

Church appointments

Latest appointments include:

The Rev Charles Barber, Chaplain at Holloway Prison, to be Vicar, Bowling, St Stephen (Bradford).

The Rev Alan Brannagan, Rector, St Michael's, West Felton (Lichfield), to be Chaplain of St George's, Ypres, Belgium.

The Rev Eric Britt, Assistant Chaplain at the Royal Free Hospital, London, to be full-time Church of England Chaplain to Broomfield Hospital, Chelmsford.

The Rev Barry Browning, Assistant Curate, Falmouth King Charles, to be Rector, Roche and Withiel (Truro).

The Rev Alan Cole, Priest-in-charge, Gamlingay w Hatley St George and East Hatley and Gamlingay Heath, to be bishop's adviser on confidential counselling (Ely).

Canon Michael Cole, Vicar, All Saints, Woodford Wells, to be also Rural Dean of Redbridge (Chelmsford).

Canon John Farrant, Rector, Penicuik and West Linton (Edinburgh), to be Chaplain, Holy Trinity, Funchal, Madeira.

Preb Roger Flower, Vicar, St Andrew, Taunton, and Prebendary of Wells Cathedral, to be Vicar, Dartmouth (Exeter).

The Rev David Gerrish, Rector, All Saints w St Peter's, Portland (Salisbury), to be Chaplain of the Aquitaine Chaplaincy, France.

The Rev Barry Harper, Vicar, St John the Evangelist, Walmley, to be also an Honorary Canon of Birmingham Cathedral.

The Rev Robert Law, Rector, St Columb Major, to be also Rural Dean of Pydar (Truro).

The Rev Richard Lindley, director of education, diocese of Birmingham, to be also an Honorary Canon of Birmingham Cathedral.

The Rev Dr Richard Marsh, Archbishop of Canterbury's secretary for ecumenical affairs, to be also an Honorary Canon of the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, Gibraltar (Europe).

The Rev Simon Pothen, Team Vicar, St Mark, Grimsby, to be Rector, Friern Barnet (London).

The Rev Susan Rose, Director of Pastoral Studies at Trinity College, Bristol, to be Vicar, Normanton All Saints (Wakefield).

The Rev Philip Sudell, Assistant Curate, Christ the King, Worthing, to be Assistant Curate, St James, Muswell Hill (London).

The Rev Dr Malcolm Torry, Vicar, St Catherine, Hatcham, to be Parish Priest, Christ Church w St Andrew and St Michael, East Greenwich (Southwark).

The Rev Albert Watson, Priest-in-charge, Harlow Tye Green St Stephen w Netteswell St Andrew (Chelmsford), to be Rector of that parish.

The Rev Andrew Wilson, Curate, Holy Trinity, Springfield (Chelmsford), to be Vicar, Christ Church, Sidcup (Rochester).

Resignations and retirements

The Rev Peter Irwin-Clark, Vicar, Shirley (Winchester), to resign on January 14 to explore further ministry.

The Rev Anne Thomas, Assistant Priest, w responsibility for St Michael, Bartley Green (Birmingham), to retire on January 31.

The Rev John Ward, Vicar, St Mary and St Ambrose, Edgbaston (Birmingham), to retire on January 31.

The Rev Raymond Wood, Rector, St Tudy w St Mabyn and Michaelstow (Truro), retired on December 1.

Jim Rosenthal, director of communications for the Anglican Communion, to be also a lay Canon of the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, Gibraltar (Europe).

AFGHANISTAN

King Shelters in Fort.

New Delhi, Dec. 17. — The Afghan rebels have attacked Kabul and serious fighting is afoot in the Afghan capital.

The situation in Afghanistan has rapidly changed for the worse during the last two days, and fighting between the Government and rebel forces is reported both from Kabul and Jalalabad. The rebels have had some success in the vicinity of Kabul, capturing two small forts with a number of rifles and a quantity of ammunition, while at Jalalabad the Shinwaris and Khugianis have dropped negotiations and taken the field, capturing the Afghan outpost of Kaja and inflicting casualties on regulars and irregulars.

Anxiety is felt as to the position at Kabul and the safety of foreign representatives. But the wireless is working, and messages state that the Legations are safe.

The Turks and Russians are unpopular, as they are considered to be the promoters of radical anti-clerical and other reforms.

According to reports from the frontier King Amanullah of Afghanistan and Queen Surayya have taken refuge in a fort, the Army having turned against them.

The disturbances at Kabul and those at Jalalabad are apparently quite separate affairs. The troubles now reported at the Afghan capital are freely attributed to his Majesty's drastic reforms and to Queen Surayya's desire to abolish the Purdah (veil).

Origin of the Outbreak

The origin of the outbreak which has led so rapidly to the present critical situation at Kabul is to be found in the reforming zeal of King Amanullah. From the first the young King showed himself a partisan of the introduction not merely of Western technique but of Western social and political ideas among his people. He also made it clear that he intended his writ to run also among the hill tribes whose Mullahs and Pirs (religious leaders) were the interpreters of the law and obeyed the King — when it so pleased them.

During the brief Anglo-Afghan War of 1919 some opposed the Afghan ruler, while others, after the repulse of the attempt to invade India, turned to loot the Afghan city of Jalalabad. During the period of tension which followed the murder in 1923 of British officers and their wives by a gang of frontier bandits who sought refuge in Afghan territory, it became know that it was the attitude of certain Afghan Mullahs, who held that the murder of infidels did not justify the extradition of their assassins, which prevented King Amanullah from acceding to the demands of the British Government.

The first collision between the Mullahs and the King took place in May 1924, when the "Lame Mullah" raised the standard of rebellion among the Ghilzai and Mangal clansmen of Khost. He condemned the new criminal code introduced by the King as contrary to the Sacred Law of Islam. The appointment of civil judges was also resented by the tribal Mullahs and elders, who saw in it an attack on their lucrative privileges. The rebellion was crushed after hard fighting and the insurgent leaders were publicly executed.

ON THIS DAY

December 18, 1928

The programme of Westernisation instituted by King Amanullah of Afghanistan cost him the throne: he was forced to abdicate in 1929. The monarchy was abolished in July 1973.

NEWS

Lottery watchdog faces the sack

■ Virginia Bottomley is expected to end Peter Davis's brief and unhappy career as the National Lottery regulator today after his admission of links with Camelot's American partner.

The National Heritage Secretary will give Mr Davis a last chance to save his job in an interview with her most senior official, but departmental sources suggested last night that the controversy surrounding Mr Davis has become so intense she had no option but to find a successor ..... **Pages 1, 6**

Communists poised for comeback

■ For the first time since they were disbanded and ousted from power four years ago, Russia's restyled Communists and their leftist allies were set to register a comfortable lead in a field of 43 parties contesting the second post-Soviet parliamentary elections ..... **Pages 1, 11, 17**

Currency referendum

A referendum in Britain on membership of a single European currency looked increasingly likely as politicians came to terms with a confirmed starting-date for the euro ..... **Pages 1, 2, 10, 16**

Father attacked

A father was in hospital with a crushed skull after being attacked by youths he chased when they hurled a beer can through an upstairs window of his Cambridgeshire home ..... **Page 1**

Water warning

More parts of the country, including Sussex, Berkshire, Hampshire and Kent, are facing water restrictions as the drought crisis deepens, government advisers will warn today ..... **Page 2**

Policemen resign

Three policemen who handcuffed a woman officer during "horseplay" at a London station have been forced to resign for discreditable conduct ..... **Page 3**

Cancer controversy

Britain's biggest trial of a breast cancer drug is going ahead in spite of fears in the United States that long-term use might be doing more harm than good ..... **Page 4**

Fisheries rebellion

Ministers are trying to avert a backbench rebellion over the European fisheries policy which threatens to renew tensions in the Conservative Party ..... **Page 5**

Virger wins claim

A woman virger at St Paul's Cathedral who claimed that she was demoted and subjected to sexual innuendo has won a claim for unfair dismissal ..... **Page 6**

Antarctic defeat

Roger Mear, a 45-year-old Briton, has abandoned his attempt to become the first person to walk alone and unsupported across Antarctica because of equipment failure ..... **Page 6**

Rabin film mystery

Film of the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin raises as many questions as it answers, according to a small group of Israeli journalists permitted to view the tape. ..... **Page 8**

Federal shutdown

Democrats led by President Clinton remained at odds with Republicans over balancing the federal budget, causing an unprecedented second partial shutdown of the US Government ..... **Page 8**

Austrians vote for Left

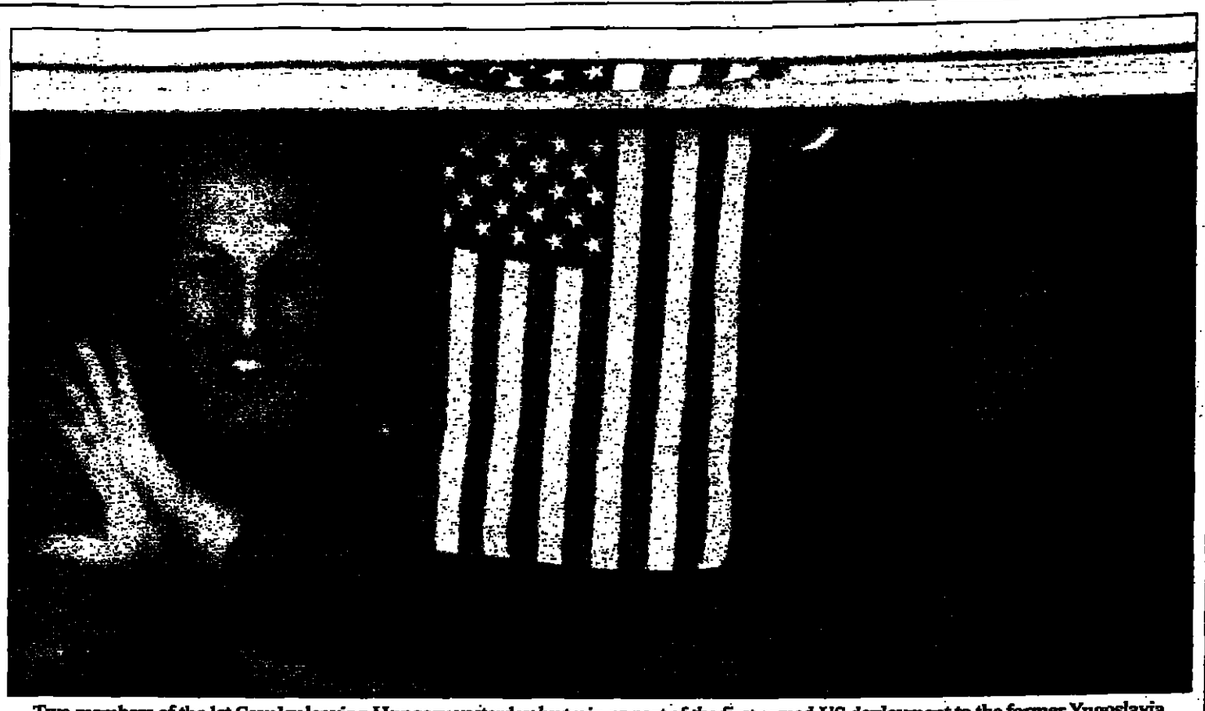
Austria's far-right populist, Jörg Haider, failed to make any great impact during yesterday's elections, paving the way for a Socialist coalition ..... **Page 9**

After the peace

Anthony Loyd first met Srdan, a Bosnian fighter, a year ago. In the wake of the Dayton agreement he returns to Dornji Vakuf to see how he has fared ..... **Page 10**

Blues have brains as well as brawn

■ The enduring image of the intellectually challenged Oxbridge sports star has been exposed as a myth in a study that shows blues outperform their counterparts in the examination hall. Analyses of the degree results from several major sports, including hockey and rugby, show Oxford blues doing better than the average for the university ..... **Page 3**



Two members of the 1st Cavalry leaving Hungary yesterday by train as part of the first armed US deployment to the former Yugoslavia

BUSINESS

BP gas deal: BP is on the verge of agreeing a multibillion-dollar contract with the state oil company to develop a huge gas field in the southwest of Algeria ..... **Page 40**

£10 billion rail plan: Railtrack has unveiled a ten-year programme of renewal for Britain's ageing railway infrastructure ..... **Page 40**

Irish pleas: Irish politicians are to hold talks with the Industry Minister in London today in an effort to break the deadlock over a rescue package for Irish Steel ..... **Page 40**

Pension protest: Cedric Brown, 60-year-old chief executive of British Gas, was under siege after it was estimated his enhanced pension could be worth as much as £3.4 million ..... **Page 40**

FEATURES

Star turn: Was the Star of Bethlehem a comet, meteor or miracle? Anjana Ahuja on the guiding light that led to the stable ..... **Page 14**

Full of beans: Nick Nuttall on how British scientists are using genetics to boost the size of crops such as grapes and runner beans ..... **Page 14**

Breath of death: Nigel Hawkes discovers how a mass extinction on the Earth may have been caused by a surge of carbon dioxide ..... **Page 14**

Party pooped: Mary Killen looks at the death of the dinner party and asks are we all too tired — and too poor — to entertain our friends? ..... **Page 15**

ARTS

Billy goes north: When a BBC camera crew dropped the Scottish comedian Billy Connolly onto a polar icecap, the results were not always a barrel of laughs ..... **Page 12**

By Byron: The Royal Shakespeare Company has staged Lord Byron's Biblical epic, *Cain*, but makes only half a case for its revival ..... **Page 13**

Full of beans: Great family fun in the East End of London. An exuberant staging of *Jack and The Beanstalk* at the Theatre Royal, Stratford East, is a winner, says Kate Bassett ..... **Page 13**

Mahler choice: Karajan's recording of Mahler's Sixth Symphony is our "Building a Library" choice this week ..... **Page 12**

SPORT

Football: England and Scotland were drawn in the same group for next summer's European championship. ..... **Pages 21 and 27**

Cricket: The fourth day in the third Test match between South Africa and England was rained off. Jason Gallian will replace the injured batsman John Crawley .. **Page 23**

Football: Robbie Fowler scored twice to give Liverpool a 2-0 win over Manchester United, who stay seven points behind Newcastle United ..... **Page 29**

Rugby union: With inspiration at a premium in English rugby, the national side face hard graft to justify their status as one of the world's best teams ..... **Page 25**

Boxing: Frank Bruno is confident he will become undisputed heavyweight champion of the world after watching Mike Tyson make heavy weather of his third-round victory over Buster Mathis ..... **Page 24**

Rugby league: Paul Cook was off target with his kicking as Bradford Bulls were beaten by Leeds in the Stones championship ..... **Page 24**

Equestrianism: Briton Nick Skelton lost a thrilling battle with Ludger Beerbaum of Germany by 100th of a second in a cup qualifying round at the Olympia Championships ..... **Page 23**

LOTTERY NUMBERS

7, 8, 23, 28, 35, 49, bonus 10.

TV & RADIO

Preview: Celebrating the 25th anniversary of *The Sun*'s Page Three girls (BBC2, 9.45pm). **Review:** Lynne Truss on *Saigon Baby*, drama about a couple trying to buy a baby in Bangkok ..... **Page 39**

COMMENT

Russia votes

Despite the predictable gains of the Communists, some good still emerged from the Russian elections ..... **Page 17**

John and Gill

Education has again become a source of political embarrassment for the Tories ..... **Page 17**

Charlotte's in a name

The fashion in first names is tidal and mysterious ..... **Page 17**

WILLIAM REES-MOGG

Tony Blair's policies will follow from his values. Yet the challenges he identifies are the same as those recognised by radical right-wing politicians such as John Redwood and Newt Gingrich ..... **Page 16**

PETER RIDDELL

It is now up to the sceptics whether they put their desire for an outright commitment against British participation ahead of the Tories' slim chances of presenting a common European line ahead of the election ..... **Page 16**

MATTHEW PARRIS

Do you think that if we still had tails they would be furry or bald? ..... **Page 16**

OBITUARIES

Fred Urquhart, short-story writer; **Professor Keith Runcorn,** geophysicist; **Vivian Blaine,** American actress and singer; **Jürgen Wattenburg,** wartime German PoW escaper ..... **Page 19**

LETTERS

Damages for libel and personal injury claims; Mixed message on the merits of drinking; Bar complaints; Standard of maths teaching ..... **Page 17**

THE PAPERS

Only four years after the fall of Communism, a good many Russians are plainly disgusted with the system that has taken its place . . . the new Duma will likely be dominated even more than the old one by communist and nationalist forces — *The Washington Times*



TOMORROW

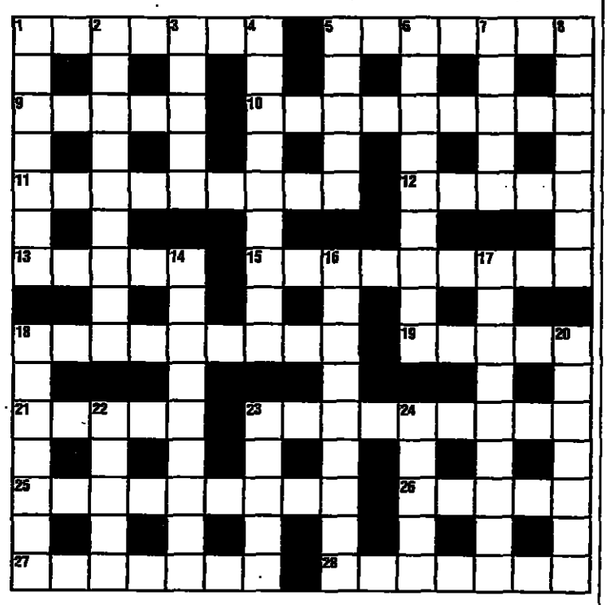
IN THE TIMES

■ **HEALTHY OPTION**
Five weekends for two at a health farm to be won in our 12 days of Christmas competitions

■ **SOUL SISTER**
The queen of Motown, Diana Ross, joins forces with the princely funk group Soul II Soul



THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,041



ACROSS

1 Improper, not like this writer (7).
5 A big meal to make us burst (4-3).
9 Singers not entirely partial to Schubert (5).
10 Part of America leaders of Nebraska and Missouri expanded (3,6).
11 When at sea, curses tea clippers (9).
12 Quasimodo had such an intuitive feeling (5).
13 Ape caught by Bohemian girl (5).
15 Youngster dropped off novel (9).
18 Noble rank, and so on, held by another (9).
19 One depends on the underground, and it holds one up (5).
21 Highwayman quietly leaves for Italian city (5).
23 Terrible row about policeman taking sweetener out East (9).
25 Steward collects officer a short time after party (5-4).
26 State of neglect visible as one doctor takes look around (5).
27 Plotter in school engineers backing (7).
28 More like 2, a learner showing such illogical thinking? (7).

DOWN

1 Member supporting Tory leader on the price of liberty (7).
2 Delayed arrival of new metal core (9).
3 Popular group, but not the main photograph (5).
4 American resort's goal — introducing a new fare (9).
5 Stadia in US for sport (5).
6 Settled boss's expenses (9).
7 Cut heads off for lion hunter (5).
8 Sounded horn, going round husband with canines? (7).
14 Tricky problem with Italian and German drink (9).
16 No need for pupils to adapt to the dark here (3-6).
17 Royal support for each class actor (9).
18 Small boy taken in by social workers early on (7).
20 List of employees voting outside Scottish port (7).
22 Eastern king's journey, initially in rising mist (5).
23 Some paper reported part of church's plan (5).
24 Guide confused type requiring parking place (5).

KNOCKANDO

The solution of Saturday's Prize Puzzle No 20,040 will appear next Saturday. The five winners will receive a bottle of Knockando, a superb Speyside Single Malt Scotch whisky and a fine leather credit card wallet.

Times Two Crossword, page 40

TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the appropriate code:

Greater London	701
Kent,Surrey,Sussex	702
Dorset,Hants & IOW	703
Devon & Cornwall	704
Wilts, Glouces, Avon,Somrs	705
Berks,Bucks,Oxon	706
Beds,Herts & Essex	707
Norfolk,Suffolk,Cambs	708
West Mid & Sth Glam & Gwent	709
Shrops,Hereids & Worcs	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
Lincs & Humberside	713
Dyfed & Powys	714
Gwynedd & Clwyd	715
N W England	716
W & S Yorks & Dales	717
N E England	718
Cumbria & Lake District	719
S W Scotland	720
W Central Scotland	721
Edin S Fife/Lothian & Borders	722
E Central Scotland	723
Grampian & E Highlands	724
N W Scotland	725
Caithness,Orkney & Shetland	726
N Ireland	727

Weathercall is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute at all other times.

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic/roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0336 401 followed by the appropriate code:

London & SE traffic, roadworks	
Area within M25	731
Essex/Herts/Beds/Bucks/Berks/Oxon	732
Kent/Surrey/Sussex/Hants	734
M25 London Orbital only	736
National traffic and roadworks	
National motorways	737
West Country	738
Wales	739
Midlands	740
East Anglia	741
North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute at all other times.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: St Mary's, Isles of Scilly, 12C (54F); lowest day max: Sennybridge, Powys, 1C (34F); highest rainfall: Tiverton, Somerset, 0.91in; highest sunshine: Aviemore, Highland, 3.7hrs

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FORECAST

☐ **General:** England and Wales will start cloudy almost everywhere, with patchy rain and drizzle in parts of the north. This wet weather will die out as it moves south during the day. Other parts are likely to be dry but cloudy.

Scotland will also be mostly cloudy with rain arriving in the far north this afternoon. Otherwise it should be dry, although a little drizzle is possible near the east coast. Northern Ireland is expected to be cloudy with outbreaks of light rain and drizzle.

☐ **London, Central S, SE, SW England, E Anglia, E, W Midlands, Channel Isles, S Wales:** mainly cloudy and dry, but there will be patchy rain or drizzle in the north later. Wind light and variable. Max 9C (48F).

☐ **Central N, NW, NE, E England, N Wales, Lake District, Isle of Man, N Ireland:** cloudy with patchy rain, petering out from the north. Wind light and variable, becoming east light. Max 7C (45F).

☐ **Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Argyll:** mainly cloudy and dry, although patchy drizzle is possible in the east. Wind east light to moderate. Max 6C (43F).

☐ **Aberdeen, Moray Firth, NE, NW Scotland, Orkney:** rain or sleet pushing down from the north. Wind east light to moderate. Max 5C (41F).

☐ **Shetland:** sleet or snow. Wind northeast moderate, becoming north fresh. Max 4C (39F).

☐ **Outlook:** colder weather spreading from the north. Rain in the south on Wednesday.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	-	-	6	43	c	London	-	0.05	6	43	r
Anglesey	-	0.01	6	43	sh	Lowestoft	-	-	5	41	c
Aspatria	3.6	-	5	41	s	Manchester	-	-	6	43	c
Avemore	3.7	-	2	36	s	Margate	-	-	5	41	du
Belfast	-	-	7	45	c	Minehead	-	0.89	4	39	r
Birmingham	-	-	3	37	du	Morecambe	0.5	-	7	45	c
Bognor R	-	0.03	5	41	r	Newcastle	0.6	-	7	45	c
Bournem'th	-	0.22	4	39	r	Newquay	X				
Bristol	-	0.49	4	39	r	Norwich	X				
Buxton	-	-	4	39	c	Nottingham	X				
Cardiff	-	0.57	3	37	r	Oxford	-	0.07	3	37	r
Colwyn Bay	-	0.01	5	41	c	Penzance	X				
Cromer	-	-	4	39	du	Plymouth	X				
Doncaster	X					Poole	-	0.44	5	41	r
Dunbar	X					Prestatyn	X	-	5	41	du
Eastbourne	-	0.09	6	43	r	Ross-o-wye	-	0.13	3	37	r
Edinburgh	-	-	7	45	c	Ryde	X				
Eskdalemuir	1.0	-	5	41	c	Scarborough	X				
Exmouth	-	0.46	5	41	d	Sandown	-	0.01	5	41	d
Falmouth	X					Saunton Snd	-	0.31	5	41	c
Fishguard	-	0.72	3	37	r	Scarboro'	-	-	8	46	du
Folkestone	-	0.02	5	41	r	Shanklin	-	0.04	4	39	d
Glasgow	2.5	-	7	45	b	Shrewsbury	-	-	4	39	du
Guernsey	0.8	0.09	11	52	du	Skegness	X				
Hastings	-	0.10	6	43	r	Southend	X				
Hayling I.	-	-	6	41	r	Southport	-	-	7	45	c
Herne Bay	-	-	5	41	du	Southsea	-	0.01	5	41	c
Hove	X					St. Ives	X				
Hunstanton	-	-	5	41	c	Stornoway	X				
Ilfracombe	X					Swanage	X				
Isle of Man	-	-	7	45	c	Teignmouth	-	0.17	5	41	du
Jersey	-	0.06	9	48	c	Tenby	X				
Kinloss	-	-	6	43	c	Tiree	1.4	-	6	43	c
Leeds	-	-	6	43	c	Torquay	-	0.15	6	43	d
Lerwick	-	-	5	41	c	Tynemouth	X				
Leuchars	-	-	7	45	c	Ventnor	-	0.05	5	41	d
Littlehmptn	-	0.08	5	41	r	West-s-mare	X				
Liverpool	-	-	6	43	c	Weymouth	-	0.45	6	43	c

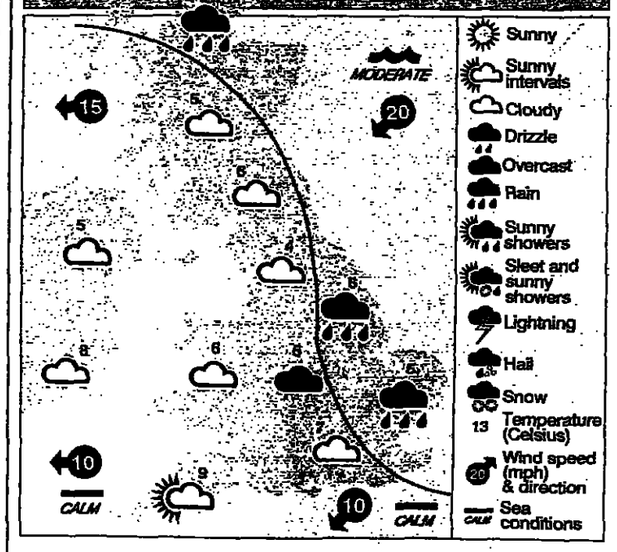
ABROAD

Ajaccio	14	57	f	Corfu	13	55	f	Madrid	9	48	f
Akrotiri	15	59	f	C'phagn	-3	27	fg	Majorca	17	63	s
Alex'dria	19	66	f	Dublin	7	45	c	Malaga	18	61	s
Algiers	18	64	s	Dubrovnik	10	50	r	Malta	18	64	r
Amst'dm	-1	30	c	Faro	13	55	f	Melb'rne	18	64	s
Athens	12	54	s	Florence	16	61	s	Mexico C	18	64	s
Bahrain	30	86	s	Frankfurt	0	32	c	Miami	26	79	s
Bangkok	31	88	f	Funchal	20	68	c	Milan	7	45	c
Barbados	29	84	f	Geneva	3	37	r	Montreal	-7	19	-
Barcelona	14	57	s	Gibraltar	16	61	f	Moscow	-1	30	c
Beirut	14	57	f	Helsinki	0	32	s	Munich	-2	28	c
Belfast	6	43	s	Hong K	18	64	c	N Delhi	20	68	s
Belgrade	6	43	s	Innsbrck	5	41	s	N York	5	41	f
Berlin	-4	25	c	Istanbul	6	43	f	Nairobi	25	77	f
Bermuda	20	68	s	Jeddah	26	79	s	Naples	16	61	f
Biarritz	15	59	s	Jo'burg	23	73	s	Nice	11	52	c
Borde'x	13	55	s	Karachi	27	81	s	Paris	5	41	fg
Brussels	1	34	c	L Angels	18	64	s	Peking	4	39	s
Budapst	0	32	s	L Palmas	21	70	c	Perth	25	77	s
Cairo	19	66	f	Le Tquet	3	37	f	Prague	-2	28	c
Cape Tn	28	82	s	Lisbon	8	46	fg	Reykjavik	4	39	c
Ch'church	24	75	s	Locarno	8	46	c	Rhodes	15	59	s
Chicago	1	34	s	Luxembg	-1	30	c	Rio de J	25	77	f
Cologne	0	32	c	Luxor	18	64	c	Riyadh	12	54	c

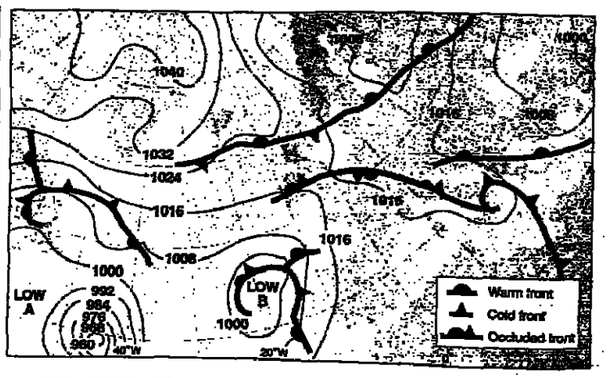
Rome	13	55	r	Tangier	15	59	r
S Fr'isco	14	57	f	Tel Aviv	17	63	f
S Paulo	27	81	c	Tenerife	23	73	f
Salzburg	-3	27	fg	Tokyo	10	50	s
Santiago	27	81	s	Toronto	2	36	d
Seoul	2	36	s	Tunis	17	63	c
Sing'por	31	88	f	Valencia	16	61	s
St'kholm	0	32	c	Vanc'ver	8	46	c
Strasb'rg	-1	30	c	Venice	9	48	r
Sydney	20	68	c	Wash'ton	15	59	f
Tangier	15	59	r	Wel'ngton	18	64	s
Tel Aviv	17	63	f	Zurich	-1	30	fg

Temperatures at midday local time. X = not available

24 HOUR FORECAST



Changes to the chart below from noon: Low A will fill as it moves north. Low B will also fill as it drifts northeast



HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	9:47	6.24	10:32	6.47	Leith	10:50	4.88	11:18	5.02
Aberdeen	9:53	3.81	10:07	3.97	Liverpool	7:24	8.09	7:50	8.30
Avonmouth	2:55	10.51	3:31	11.09	Lowestoft	5:00	2.36	6:33	2.28
Belfast	7:04	3.01	7:26	3.26	Margate	8:09	4.22	8:52	4.26
Cardiff	3:01	9.71	3:26	10.16	Milford Haven	2:14	5.94	2:41	6.24
Devonport	1:31	4.57	1:57	4.75	Newquay	1:20	5.43	1:47	5.69
Dover	7:01	5.81	7:31	5.82	Oban	2:24	3.23	2:32	3.50
Dublin	8:07	3.59	8:26	3.76	Penzance	0:48	4.58	1:14	4.78
Falmouth	1:08	4.22	1:35	4.48	Portland	2:38	1.82	2:46	1.82
Glasgow	8:58	3.77	8:47	4.11	Portsmouth	7:31	4.22	7:57	4.16
Harwich	7:37	3.48	8:21	3.63	Shoreham	7:26	5.40	7:54	5.34
Holyhead	6:42	4.84	7:00	5.04	Southampton	6:56	4.14	7:22	3.98
Hull	2:10	6.29	2:53	6.38	Swansea	2:17	7.72	2:43	8.16
Ilfracombe	2:01	7.65	2:27	7.87	Tees	—	—	0:14	4.61
King's Lynn	2:33	5.34	3:09	5.43	W'ton-on-Nze	7:41	3.64	8:26	3.85

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HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises: 8.02 am
Sun sets: 3.52pm
Moon sets 1.27 pm
Moon rises 3.12 am

London 3.52 pm to 8.02 am
Bristol 4.02 pm to 8.12 am
Edinburgh 3.39 pm to 8.41 am
Manchester 3.50 pm to 8.22 am
Penzance 4.21 pm to 8.17 am

New moon December 22

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United untied by Fowler's striking talents

TIMES SPORT

MONDAY DECEMBER 18 1995

THE EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP DRAW AND THE WAY TO WEMBLEY IN 1996

GROUP A
Wembley and Villa Park

ENGLAND
Priced reasonably at 7-1 purely on home advantage. Resilience and desire are strengths. Gascoigne the talisman.

SWITZERLAND
Outstanding was their cup final. Roy Hodgson's now a part-timer, and his workmanlike Swiss-organised side no higher than 50-1.

HOLLAND
The skills to win group defensive vulnerability. Dennis Bergkamp, Patrick Kluivert, Marc Overmars and Jordi Cruyff. Should qualify. Should. Will. Can. Probably. Definitely. Yes. 5-2 favourites.

SCOTLAND
Craig Brown moulded the whole around McAllister as greater than the parts. 50-1 odds no insult, quarter-finals an achievement.

GROUP B
Elland Road and St James' Park

SPAIN
Tough, hard, collective Basque principles. The team has been consistent and should reach the semi-finals. 7-1 is a fair bet.

BULGARIA
Who knows if Stoichkov and co. can rekindle the goals-a-plenty of USA 94? If short on goals, tied to technique. 66-1 are odds worth taking.

ROMANIA
Hagi lives fallow between occasional bursts of inspiration. Has the class, historical and point but unnecessary unpredictable odds of 8-1.

FRANCE
Dropped Cantona-head. Gerets and discovered team effort. Capable of a quarter-final place and fairly priced at 10-1.

GROUP C
Old Trafford and Anfield

GERMANY
Tournament mentality second to none, now prepared to allow individual expression. Good value at 5-1. Potential winners.

CZECH REPUBLIC
Inconsistent, technically sound, but too few players can raise their game more than once a week. 80-1 odds unattractive.

ITALY
After interminable Sacchi-ing, the coach believes he has sculpted his team. Together (Italia 1994?) should reach the final. Long-term 5-1 odds.

RUSSIA
Underestimate them at your peril. The Russians often gentlemanly respect on the men from the Steppes. Hence 20-1 odds.

GROUP D
Hillsborough and City Ground

DENMARK
Defending champions, but bookmakers who offer 25-1 are no fools. The Euro status was a one-off that will not be repeated.

PORTUGAL
Pretty on the eye, technically gifted, but unproven in the rigours of tournament play. At 9-1 10-1 a reasonable bet?

TURKEY
Stubborn and over-reliant on Hakan, their one proven scorer. Capable of making life difficult but no fortune to be won at 50-1.

CROATIA
Depends on the first XI remaining fit. No [illegible]

FIRST-ROUND MATCHES AND VENUES

OLD TRAFFORD

3	Sunday June 9	5.00pm
	Germany v Czech Republic	
15	Sunday June 16	3.00pm
	Russia v Germany	
24	Wednesday June 19	7.30pm
	Italy v Germany	

ST JAMES' PARK

6	Monday June 10	7.30pm
	Romania v France	
9	Thursday June 13	4.30pm
	Bulgaria v Romania	
17	Tuesday June 18	4.30pm
	France v Bulgaria	

ELLAND ROAD

2	Sunday June 9	2.30pm
	Spain v Bulgaria	
14	Saturday June 15	6.00pm
	France v Spain	
18	Tuesday June 18	4.30pm
	Romania v Spain	

HILLSBOROUGH

4	Sunday June 9	7.30pm
	Denmark v Portugal	
16	Sunday June 16	6.00pm
	Croatia v Denmark	
22	Wednesday June 19	4.30pm
	Turkey v Denmark	

ANFIELD

7	Tuesday June 11	4.30pm
	Italy v Russia	
12	Friday June 14	7.30pm
	Czech Republic v Italy	
23	Wednesday June 19	7.30pm
	Russia v Czech Republic	

VILLA PARK

5	Monday June 10	4.30pm
	Holland v Scotland	
10	Thursday June 13	7.30pm
	Switzerland v Holland	
19	Tuesday June 18	7.30pm
	Scotland v Switzerland	

THE VENUES

Old Trafford (Manchester) Capacity: 43,000 min
St James' Park (Newcastle) Capacity: 35,000
Anfield (Liverpool) Capacity: 41,000
Elland Road (Leeds) Capacity: 39,000
Hillsborough (Sheffield) Capacity: 40,000
Villa Park (Birmingham) Capacity: 39,000
City Ground (Nottingham) Capacity: 30,500
Wembley (London) Capacity: 76,000

CITY GROUND

8	Tuesday June 11	7.30pm
	Turkey v Croatia	
11	Friday June 14	4.30pm
	Portugal v Turkey	
21	Wednesday June 19	4.30pm
	Croatia v Portugal	

WEMBLEY

1	Saturday June 8	3.00pm
	England v Switzerland	
13	Saturday June 15	3.00pm
	Scotland v England	
20	Tuesday June 18	7.30pm
	Holland v England	

THE FINAL STAGES

QUARTER-FINALS

WEMBLEY
Saturday June 22 3.00pm
25 Winner group A v Runner-up group B

ANFIELD
Saturday June 22 6.30pm
26 Winner group B v Runner-up group A

OLD TRAFFORD
Sunday June 23 3.00pm
27 Winner group C v Runner-up group D

VILLA PARK
Saturday June 23 6.30pm
28 Winner group D v Runner-up group C

SEMI-FINALS

OLD TRAFFORD
Wednesday June 26 4.00pm
29 Anfield winner v Villa Park winner

WEMBLEY
Wednesday June 26 7.30pm
30 Wembley winner v Old Trafford winner

FINAL
31 Sunday June 30 7.00pm

1 Match number

Scotland to renew old rivalries in Euro '96 finals

Draw eases England's path

BY ROB HUGHES
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

CONSPIRACY seems to have turned to compassion for Terry Venables. After his *annus horribilis*, the England coach looked delighted yesterday after the draw for the 1996 European football championship finals produced the most kindly group imaginable. England are to play Holland, but fear not, for two teams qualify from each group, and if they cannot dispense with Scotland and Switzerland, then they are not really in the higher echelons of the European game at all.

Before an estimated television audience of 6.9 billion viewers for the 31 matches can be contemplated, before the tournament is assessed, it must be acknowledged that there is a dual challenge to England. It is not only to play to the best of their ability, but also to organise a tournament for 16 nations — a marvellous vote of faith in the country by Lennart Johansson, the Uefa president, given the horrendous memories of Heysel, Bradford and Hillsborough.

Last Wednesday, at Anfield, was the perfect prelude: a Dutch side of awesome youth and talents, and an Irish crowd that took defeat with such magnanimity that it is a pity that it could not be hired to teach its English counterparts the ways of civilised sporting behaviour.

To draw Scotland, despite the misleading rumour last week that England and the Scots would be kept apart, focuses this element. It was in 1988 that Scotland last visited Wembley, and it has not been felt possible since to take such a risk of disorder again.

It is a fixture that Venables and Craig Brown, the Scotland manager, have wanted for a long time. "It has taken a draw to get us together," Venables said. "I know the behaviour is going to be looked at but I am sure it will be fine because the fans wouldn't like to mess it up for the future."

Optimism was in the air. Venables's own sense of well-being would not have been reduced by the weekend backing that he received from Sir Bert Millichip, the FA chairman, who said that he wants Venables to continue in his role up to the 1998 World Cup and beyond. Earlier comments by Noel White, the chairman of the FA's international committee, had seemed to cloud further Venables's future.

Many of the managers in Birmingham yesterday, particularly those drawn in groups B or C — groups full of menace, quality and unrelenting ambition — also spoke diplomatically of their "confidence". But Venables said that, behind the scenes, "every one of them was insisting that their group was tough. We're all thinking how difficult the standard is going to be."

Difficult? A curious thing happened to the Ladbrokes odds minutes after the draw. A few days ago, England had been offered at the ludicrously short odds of 9-2. Now, having drawn the easy group, they were out to 7-1. The other price to alter dramatically concerned Holland, and Guus Hiddink, their manager, said that he was astonished that they have suddenly been made favourites over Germany and Italy.

England's tournament begins at Wembley on June 8 against Switzerland, with whom they drew 1-1 a month ago. The Swiss will not, in a competitive fixture, control the match as they did last month for half an hour, and then stand back in contentment. Switzerland are counted by Venables and Hiddink as a side of clever organisation, and Brown remembers that it was Switzerland who beat Scotland to World Cup qualification for 1994.

Switzerland's English manager, Roy Hodgson, the former PE teacher, was the odd man out yesterday. As a part-time club manager, part-time national coach, his duty lay in Italy with Internazionale. It can be assumed that, above all, he would welcome the return of Stephane Chapuisat, the forward who links with Adrian Knup, and who has been injured in Germany for some time.

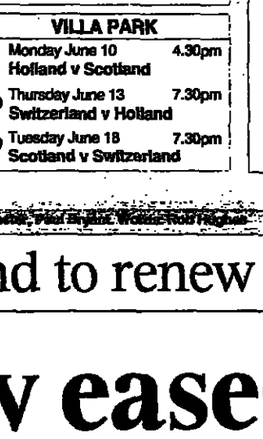
But the Swiss are ageing at the back. Their captain, Alain Geiger, looked terribly inert when Teddy Sheringham headed England's goal last month, and the one quality that nobody can coach into players at the end of an exacting season is lost youth.

For the Dutch, there is a different kind of conundrum. There seems no reason why a team built around eight Ajax players, young players who have been unbeaten in 17 games in Europe, should not come to the temple of football and cherish playing England. Hiddink, though, remembers that Holland left the airport at Minsk in June believing that they had been eliminated. "We came in by the kitchen door, and it is not realistic to consider us favourites even after our performance against Ireland at Anfield," Hiddink said.

However, the defeat by Belorussia had come days after the young Dutch celebrated Ajax's European Cup final victory over AC Milan. It could happen again; who would bet against Ajax being in the final in Rome on May 22? "It is a great possibility," Hiddink said. "I have to make two schedules, it is a little bit inconvenient."

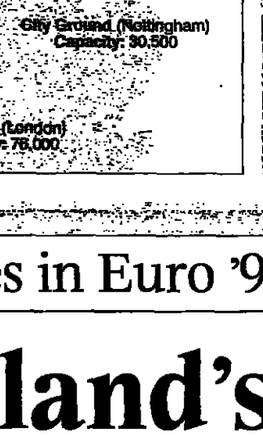
The inconvenience of success ... but Hiddink, if Ajax are not in the European Cup final in May, would like to take his Holland team to Dublin on June 3 to play their last preparatory match for Euro '96 on Irish soil, as a gesture to the wonderful harmony of Anfield.

He insists that Germany or Italy are the true favourites. Berti Vogts, the Germany coach, shrugs and says that his team are very young, and Arrigo Sacchi simply smiles enigmatically at the prospect of people wanting to garland his Italy team in the same year that his selections were ridiculed. But none of them has what England have — the old enemy. That return to Wembley for Scotland will be a tournament in itself, and if it should turn out as a draw, England's "easy" group suddenly becomes claustrophobic.



'This might be the beginning of bringing the game back on a regular basis. It's a fixture we've all missed'

— Terry Venables
England coach



'We might think the England game is the final and forget there are two other games. It may be a problem psychologically'

— Craig Brown
Scotland manager

Security threat, page 1
Euro '96 prospects, page 27
Scottish view, page 31



POUR MONSIEUR
ELEGANCE IS TIMELESS
CHANEL

Eurosport relying on Churchillian outlook



MATTHEW BOND

TV ACTION REPLAY

Some sports the BBC loses, others it just gives away. In a week that saw ITV make off with Formula One, the corporation decided that show jumping's annual pre-Christmas bunfight at Olympia was just not worth the candle. For the first time in years, David Vine would not have to hurry back from the Alps.

Lack of audience interest was the explanation for why Olympia has now followed the Horse of the Year Show in disappearing from the BBC's schedules and a conspicuous lack of popular protest from be-jodhpured, sofa-sore viewers suggests it has a point. As far as prime time, terrestrial television is concerned, show jumping's spot in the limelight is over.

Some, of course, place the blame back on the BBC. Over the years, coverage got later and later and, as a result, audiences got smaller and smaller, so coverage was pushed back even later, audiences got even smaller ... and so it went on. Eventually the BBC ran out of evening — which is why a token hour of highlights is scheduled for lunchtime today on BBC2. Curiously, these "highlights" go out some six hours before the show's big-money finale, the P&O Grand Prix, takes place.

Pictures for the programme will be provided by Eurosport, which has taken over the reins as host broadcaster and celebrated the fact by sponsoring its own event, the quaintly named Eurosport Christmas Pudding Stakes. Recorded highlights of this and the Volvo World Cup Qualifier were shown at reasonable hours by the satellite channel on Friday and Saturday, while the Grand Prix today is being shown live in a two-hour programme this evening. You do not have to be an equestrian to see that at least someone has got their priorities right.

Visually, the coverage was familiar, but then it would be. For in an ironic twist to events, when the satellite channel put the technical contract out to tender, the best bid came from ... yes, you've guessed it, the BBC. Commentary on the satellite channel was provided by Peter Churchill, whose modulated tones are already familiar to listeners to Radio 5 Live and who covers most of Eurosport's surprisingly extensive equestrian output. In Britain, such commitment would come under the category of flogging a dead sport but, in Europe, show jumping is still a big business. As Churchill pointed out, between them, John Whitaker and Nick Skelton have won the best part of £500,000 prize-money this year.

It would be nice to say that Eurosport will prove the saviour of show jumping, but it would not be true. Careful guardian is probably a more accurate description. Churchill's measured commentary, for instance, will please those who found the "oohs", "aahs" and "come on, Harveys" of Dorian Williams and Raymond Brooks-Ward rather over the top.

But, equally, his meticulous reprise of ranking, breeding and career will frustrate others, who feel that a few more "oohs", "aahs" and "come on, Harveys" is exactly what show jumping today needs. He also talks rather a lot — an occupational hazard for commentators working alone.

Show jumping undoubtedly has its problems — a lack of women riders competing at the top level (the battle of the sexes never loses its appeal), intrusive sponsorship (if Churchill said Volvo once on Saturday, he said it a hundred times) and those endlessly unexciting first rounds. But once the competition progresses to a jump-off against the clock, it still makes pretty good television — as the World Cup Qualifier on Saturday, where 0.16sec separated the top three, showed.

After 30 years of getting over the novelty of colour television, show jumping's glory days are unlikely to return. But presented correctly, it still has the capacity to thrill and entertain. With alternative attractions fast disappearing, BBC Sport may yet have to reconsider.

Brawl ends with injury and seven sent off

BY MEL WEBB AND NORMAN DE MESQUITA

TEMPERS were still cooling yesterday as two of the country's leading ice hockey teams looked back on a mass brawl in a match on Saturday which had seen six players and the Steelers coach sent off, one player arrested and another put in hospital with a serious eye injury.

The British League premier division match, between Sheffield Steelers and Durham Wasps at Crowtree Leisure Centre in Sunderland, erupted into a skirmish two minutes before the end of the second period. At first only Ross Lambert, of Durham, and Nicky Chinn, of Sheffield, were involved, but the confrontation spread.

Chinn and his team-mates, Tony Hand, Rob Wilson, Tommy Plommer and Perry Doyle, were sent off. For Wasps, Dale Lambert, the injured player's brother, was also ejected, but Mike Ware, the Durham coach, ensured that none of his other players left the bench to become involved.

The match, which contained more than 200 minutes in penalties and eventually ended 6-6, was suspended for 30 minutes. Lambert was taken to Sunderland Eye Infirmary, where he was detained for further tests.

Chinn, meanwhile, was arrested and later released without charge on police bail until February 20 so that further inquiries could be made.

Ken Swinburne, the Durham manager, did not allow any of his off-ice players to become involved with the fight. "It was a very ugly incident," he said. "Ross had terrible injuries about his face and we feared for his sight."

Chinn, a Welshman, is in British ice hockey's hall of fame after becoming the first player to score four times in a Wembley cup final. He and Ross Lambert, 34, a Canadian, were involved in an incident last season.

End-of-term party spoilt by greed and indifference

FROM ANDREW LONGMORE IN TRYALL, JAMAICA

THE claim made by Nick Faldo on the eve of the fifth Johnnie Walker world championship that someone could go berserk at Tryall seems to have been borne out. Faldo was talking about low scoring, but as a worthy and courageous sponsorship, worth an estimated £15 million, ended in a bout of ill-tempered greed and casual incompetence, sanity has been as rare a commodity as a John Daly birdie over the past four days.

At times, the self-styled gentlemen of world sport have behaved with all the dignity of a bunch of children run amok in the sweet shop.

Excuses are easily trotted out. Everyone is tetchy after a long, hard season, everyone has off days, the wind was fickle, the course not in its best shape, but the majority of the 20-strong field here have been searching for a little Christmas pin money and looking around for someone else to take the responsibility for winning.

In the social whirl which has always marked this event out as a week of relaxation as well as effort, the balance seems to have been lost. Too much jam, too much of a jamboree. The quietest place in Tryall over the week has been the practice ground. Daly has troubled it for 20 minutes, the rest for the bare minimum. Only Faldo and Ernie Els have been sighted trying to right wrongs after bad rounds.

Who cares if a couple of dropped strokes lightens the pay packet a fraction, like London buses, there will be another along in a minute. Corey Pavin, for example, the US Open champion and one of the three winners of major championships in 1995 who is not here, has won over £1 million from the silly season, as the made-for-television events — skins games, pro-ams, challenges, world championships, whatever name masks their true status — of November and December are fondly termed.

Daly's respectability had vanished midway through the second day, when he could barely be bothered to find his ball, let alone hit it straight down the aptly named Tryall course. The Open champion likened his rounds to the football scores over the first three days, but he had the wrong sport. His card has featured more sixes than the scoreboard on the centre court.

Daly's farcical performance reached its conclusion yesterday with a final round of 80 for a record total of 324, 40 strokes over par. Any chance of staying inside the four-round high of 311, set by Russ Cochran, of the United States, in the first event four years ago, ended with a bogey six at the 2nd. By the time he took a triple bogey eight on the 15th, including an air shot and a water splash, the joke was as overblown as his prize-money, £35,000 for finishing last.

If the tournament folds for lack of sponsorship, it could be a lasting stain on a record already scattered with highs and lows. Daly will film a commercial for his sponsors, Wilson, next week before taking the following two weeks off, to formulate a few New Year's resolutions perhaps.

His fellow players seem happy to count Daly a law unto himself and leave it that. "I am not going to sit here and make comments," Fred Couples, the overnight leader, said. "I do not know what it is like to shoot 80 three rounds in a row. I know the guy can do better, I don't know what he is doing. It's a difficult course, maybe he's trying to drive all the greens."

In contrast to the shrinking violets around him, a combination of persistent back trouble and a less than hectic schedule brought Couples to Jamaica fresh and blooming. This is the time of year the 1992 Masters champion comes out to play and if the pickings are easier now, when most of his serious rivals are whistling "White Christmas", the American's conscience will be troubled no more than the bank account of Colin Montgomerie, who was fined £100 for "a minor breach of etiquette" after a stormy exit from the 18th green at the end of the second day. He was not the only one to get overheated here. The sponsors might feel their golden goose has been barbecued once too often as well.

Scores 33

CHARLES KRUPA



Couples, fresher than most of his rivals, was a worthy leader after three rounds

Hickman displays perfect timing

WITHIN ten minutes at Ponds Forge, Sheffield, yesterday, James Hickman set an English record at 200 metres medley, in 2min 00.78sec, caused a rumpus by easing down in a side pool without permission and, seemingly unperturbed, proceeded to set a British record in the 100 metres butterfly, in 53.79sec (Craig Lord writes).

Having already won the 200 metres butterfly and 400 metres medley, the Stockport teenager's tally of titles doubled to four in his busiest few minutes of what were, for Hickman in particular and British swimming in general, a splendid winter national championships.

One world record — to Mark Foster in the 50 metres butterfly, 23.45sec — and six British records fell in three days of finals. Foster (21.71sec in the 50 metres freestyle) and Nick Gillingham (2min 09.21sec over 200 metres breaststroke) also end the year as fastest short-course swimmers in the world for 1995, in the events they will pursue at the Olympics next year.

Those two are joined by a trio of distance freestyle men who look bright medal prospects for Atlanta. Paul Palmer, in winning the 400 metres freestyle (3min 45.45sec), drew Ian Wilson to yet another lifetime best (3min 47.25sec), with Graeme Smith setting a Scottish record of 3min 50.08sec.

Wilson and Smith had set British and Scottish records respectively in the 1,500 metres freestyle on Friday and will be joined by Palmer in the Olympic trials in March.

Results, page 33

Platts signs off with final flourish

GEOFF PLATTS ended his time-trial season at the weekend out of breath but happy to have won his 45th event in a year in which he has also taken national cycling championship medals at 25, 50 and 100 miles at the age of 40, the first veteran rider to do so and only the fifth of any age to complete the hat-trick (Peter Bryan writes).

Platts, an amateur who works for the National Rivers Authority near Loughborough and had 34 victories to his credit last year, was a clear winner of the Chesterfield Spire ten-miles trial in 20min 50sec. His warm-up ride of 15 miles was longer than the race distance.

"I expected to record a time closer to 22 minutes after a disappointing training session earlier last week," he said yesterday. "And although conditions were both windy and very cold I was surprised how well I went."

For Platts, who has started in 55 trials this year, the Chesterfield event was the last of the season for him; he is turning his back on the remaining few on the calendar to take a short rest before getting down to serious training for 1996.

Gary Thomas, the Wales international, missed equalling the event record of 56min 15sec by one second in the Manchester and District TTA 25 miles time-trial near Jodrell Bank. Good conditions produced a crop of fast times, with Thomas just failing to beat the record set by Gethin Butler, Britain's best all-round champion, two years ago. Jez King, the Suffolk rider who revels in hard courses, was the runner-up, eight seconds slower.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Ortlieb secures third triumph

PATRICK ORTLIEB, of Austria, the former Olympic champion, captured his third career victory in the third downhill race of the World Cup season in Val Gardena, Italy on Saturday. "I've raced this course at least 30 times. I know it by heart and without doubt it's my race," said Ortlieb, who beat Xavier Gigandet, of Switzerland, by 0.44sec and Luc Alphand, of France, by 0.48sec down the Saslong track.

Hans Knaus, of Austria, scored his first World Cup victory at Alta Badia, Italy yesterday, ending the 100 per cent record of Michael Von Gruenigen, of Switzerland, in the giant slalom this season. Knaus was fastest in both legs, winning with a combined time of 2min 35.34sec. Von Gruenigen put in a storming second run to claim second place, 0.69sec behind Knaus, and maintain his lead in the standings.

Regan bang on target

BOXING: Robbie Regan, of Wales, collected the International Boxing Federation interim flyweight title by knocking out Ferid Ben Jeddou, of Tunisia, in the second round on Saturday in Cardiff. Chris Pyatt regained the Commonwealth light-middleweight title by outpointing the holder, Kevin Kelly, of Australia. In Philadelphia, Henry Akinwande, of London, outpointed International Boxing Federation heavyweight champion, Tony Tucker, who was ranked No 3. Akinwande will consequently move up a couple of places in the rankings and will be closer to a challenge for a world title.

Cardiff leave it late

ICE HOCKEY: Cardiff Devils maintained their position at the top of the premier division with a 10-5 win over Milton Keynes Kings, but they needed six goals in the third period before confirming their superiority over a hard-working Kings team (Norman de Mesquita writes). In the first division, Bracknell lost some ground in a 5-5 draw with Telford but lowly Peterborough, at last putting together a competitive team, gained a valuable win away to Murrayfield with Parker scoring five of their eight goals.

George makes mark

ATHLETICS: Emma George, of Australia, broke the women's pole vault world record for a second time in as many weeks at a meeting in Perth yesterday. The 21-year-old from Melbourne reached 4.28 metres, bettering the record she set in Melbourne a fortnight ago by 0.03 metres. It is the seventeenth time the women's pole vault world record has been bettered.

Austrians dominate



SKIING: Elfi Eder, right, and Anita Wachter won the women's World Cup slalom and combined events to maintain Austria's domination of the St Anton piste yesterday. Eder finished 0.85sec ahead of Urska Hrovat with another Slovenian, Katja Koren, 0.59sec further back in third. Michaela Dorfmeister, of Austria, won the downhill on Saturday.

Scotland retain title

CURLING: Scotland's men retained their European championship title at Grindelwald, Switzerland, but the women's team went down 8-3 to Germany in their final and settled for silver. The men beat Switzerland, and their vociferous horn-blowing support, 4-2. England's men finished sixth to keep their entry qualification for the world championships.

Cappellini champion

POWERBOATING: Guido Cappellini, of Italy, captured his third Formula One world inland championship in Abu Dhabi on Saturday. He finished ninth in the last event in the eight-race series, which was won by Jonathan Jones, of Wales, who finished fourth in the final table. Jones, himself a triple champion, had been considering retirement but has landed more sponsorship for next season and will continue.

SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm) L	U	Conditions Piste	Off/p	Runs to resort	Weather (5pm)	°C	Last snow
AUSTRIA								
Galtur	20	55	fair	varied	fair	sun	1	14/12
(Nearly all lifts and runs open)								
Ischgl	30	70	good	varied	fair	sun	0	14/12
(Mostly good but some worn/icy patches)								
Obergurgl	40	45	fair	varied	warn	fine	0	14/12
(Mixed conditions with some runs good, others rocky)								
CANADA								
Whistler	35	145	good	powder	fair	snow	0	17/12
(Snowing lightly with more expected: good skiing)								
FRANCE								
Alpe D'huez	35	100	good	varied	good	snow	2	17/12
(Fresh snow and mostly good skiing: odd worn patch)								
Evalier	35	90	good	powder	art	snow	2	17/12
(Good skiing with fresh powder, poor visibility)								
Val d'Isère	10	100	fair	varied	art	cloud	4	14/12
(More runs open today but still waiting for snowfalls)								
SWITZERLAND								
Davos	10	45	fair	varied	fair	sun	3	14/12
(Good skiing available on many runs: 34/55 lifts open)								
Verbier	0	80	fair	heavy	closed	cloud	3	28/11
(More lifts gradually opening up: snow forecast)								
Zermatt	0	70	fair	poor	closed	fine	1	15/12
(Sunnegga pistes wearing but not too busy)								

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain L - lower slopes, U - upper; art - artificial

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MERCURY COMMUNICATIONS

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Rain rules out possibility of result at Kingsmead and shortens odds on drawn series

England prepare to give Gallian place in Test side

FROM ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT, IN DURBAN

THERE have only been four 0-0 draws in Test series of five games or more, the last of them 24 years ago. But after a weekend of incessant rain in Durban, permitting only 35 minutes of cricket and guaranteeing England a third successive draw with South Africa, the prospect of stalemate is hanging heavily over a winter series desperately in need of a reawakening.

Bad weather has hounded this tour at almost every venue and, but for Michael Atherton's titanic innings in Johannesburg, the Tests here are in danger of being remembered entirely for the unseasonal rain. Play at Kingsmead was abandoned at lunchtime yesterday, without a ball bowled, and if there is no cricket on the final day today, two-thirds of the playing hours in the first and third Tests combined will have been lost to the elements.

The only previous 0-0 draws involved two series between India and Pakistan, in 1954-55 and 1960-61, England in India in 1963-64 and the West Indies v New Zealand series eight years later. The potential for a further scoreless outcome here does not depend upon the weather, for the two remaining Tests are to be played on the slow, batsmen-friendly surfaces at Port Elizabeth and Cape Town.

Both sides are already planning ahead. England have summoned Jason Gallian from Pakistan, where he was playing for the A team, to replace the cruelly injured John Crawley. Gallian is likely to go straight into the Test team in Port Elizabeth on Boxing Day and the chances are he will be confronted by the most talked about cricketer in South Africa, Paul Adams, the teenage spin bowler.

Peter Pollock and his fellow selectors have frustrated their public by delaying the inevitable introduction of Adams to Test cricket but they have chosen their moment skilfully. If Adams, having bowled consistently well for Western Province over recent weeks, is today named, as expected, in the South Africa squad for the last two Tests, it will be acclaimed as much for its political as its cricketing significance.

The attention focused upon Adams, a Cape Coloured from a humble fishing family, will be immense and I understand the South African president, Nelson Mandela, is being asked to attend the Test match to underscore the momentous nature of his inclusion. England, whose batsmen have already been embarrassed once by the singular style of Adams, will not greet the selection with such enthusiasm.



Gallian: unflappable

The touring team must make a change of their own, however, after the torn hamstring sustained by Crawley during South Africa's lengthy last-wicket stand on Friday. Although Crawley is remaining with the party, it is acknowledged that he will not recover in time to play again in the series and it is ironic that his place will probably go to his Lancashire team-mate, Gallian, who is due to arrive in Durban tomorrow after a tortuous, five-flight journey from Peshawar.

That Gallian, a specialist opening batsman, was the choice as replacement in preference to an in-form middle-order player, such as Nasser Hussain, is revealing. It emphasises that, without an established No 3 in the side, the one striking folly in England's initial tour selection was to include only two openers; and it betrays the management's complete loss of confidence in Mark Ramprakash.

Raymond Illingworth, the team manager, confirmed yesterday that, despite the vacancy so rapidly renewed by Crawley's misfortune, Ramprakash will not be considered at No 3 for the remainder of the series. It is belittling for a man who bestrode the county scene so majestically last summer but is is not an unfair judgment. Ramprakash's consistent failure to impose himself at the highest level remains a mystery but, when exposed in so crucial a position, he endangers the confidence of those around him.

Atherton, the captain, believes that the need is for some "stodge" in England's upper order. Himself apart, the England batting is comprised entirely of shotmakers, a contributory factor to their precarious position after two days of this match on a pitch of no obvious malice.

Gallian, who augments a solid technique with an unflappable temperament, was arguably unfortunate not to be chosen for the tour originally, having opened the batting in the final Test last summer. But he has scored heavily in Pakistan, arrives with the full recommendation of John Emburey, his A team manager, and is likely to feature in the England party for the World Cup, which begins in February.

SCOREBOARD FROM DURBAN

SOUTH AFRICA: First Innings 225 (P J Martin 4 for 60)

ENGLAND: First Innings

*M A Atherton c Hudson b Donald (4min, 6 balls)	2
A J Stewart c Hudson b Matthews (130min, 85 balls, 8 fours)	41
G P Thorpe c Cullinan b Donald (17min, 11 balls)	2
R A Smith c McMillan b Matthews (94min, 73 balls, 6 fours)	34
G A Hick not out (102min, 63 balls, 6 fours)	31
†R C Russell c Rhodes b Matthews (43min, 29 balls, 1 four)	8
D G Cork not out (45min, 31 balls, 3 fours)	23
Extras (lb 4, nb 7)	11
Total (5 wkts, 48.1 overs, 221min)	152

J P Crawley, P J Martin, M C Ilott and R K Illingworth to bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-2 (Stewart 0), 2-13 (Stewart 4), 3-83 (Stewart 36), 4-93 (Hick 4), 5-109 (Hick 12).

BOWLING: Donald 12.1-1-57-2 (nb 2; 4-0-18-2, 4-1-16-0, 4.1-0-23-0), Pollock 15-2-39-0 (nb 5; 4-0-10-0, 7-1-17-0, 4-1-12-0); Matthews 12-5-31-3 (5-3-10-0, 7-2-21-3); McMillan 9-3-21-0 (nb 1; 4-1-14-0, 5-2-7-0).

SCORING NOTES: Third day: Play 12.35 to 12.54pm: 138-5 (45.1 overs, 207min) Hick 25, Cork 16. Play 1.10 to 1.24pm. Play abandoned at 3.45pm. Fourth day: No play — abandoned at 1.0pm.

Umpires: S A Bucknor (West Indies) and D L Orchard. TV replay umpire: K E Liebenberg. Match referee: C H Lloyd (West Indies)

RESULTS: First Test (Pretoria): drawn. Second Test (Johannesburg): drawn

TESTS TO COME: Fourth (Port Elizabeth): Dec 26 to 30. Fifth (Cape Town) Jan 2 to 6.

☐ Compiled by Bill Frindall

GRAHAM MORRIS



Matthews shows his ball-handling technique while the covers present evidence of the fourth day washout

Lloyd dismisses tampering claim

FROM ALAN LEE

CRAIG MATTHEWS, the South Africa seam bowler seen by his peers as one of the most honest and unassuming of modern Test cricketers, reacted with sadness and indignation yesterday to an allegation of ball-tampering in the third Test against England.

The accusation, based on television footage of play on Friday, was dismissed by Clive Lloyd, the match referee, yesterday as "a storm in a teacup". Having declared there to be no case to answer, Lloyd reminded all the players that "whatever they do must be above reproach".

This is a direct reference to the dangers inherent in playing under the multi-angled scrutiny of a dozen television cameras capable of portraying as sinister a bowler or fielder innocently going about his normal business. Michael Atherton, who viewed developments yesterday with a wry detachment, discovered this at Lord's last year, when the witch-hunt that followed the dirt-in-pocket affair almost persuaded him to resign the England captaincy.

Only a fortnight ago, in Australia, the Sri Lanka team was reported by the umpires during the Perth Test for altering the condition of the ball. Their punishment from Graham Dowling, the match referee, was no more than a slap on the wrist but it restored ball-tampering to public debate.

The episode this weekend could be regarded as trivial, a distraction on a rainy day. But it has its serious side. Matthews explained that he had been woken shortly before 2am by an unidentified journalist seeking a comment on something of which he knew nothing. Matthews said: "It kept me awake for a long time. It upset me very much. I always play the game hard but fairly and I don't want to take this sort of thing lightly."

Matthews's plausible justification of pictures showing him using his thumb around the seam of the ball was that this is his custom whenever he begins a spell. "Anyone who has bowled will know it is that part of the seam which attracts all the scuff marks. By habit, I lick my fingers and run them along the edge of the seam to shine the ball."

Shaun Pollock, who was shown by Sky Television pictures on Saturday apparently digging his fingernails into the ball while drying it, was not presented for interview yesterday but the scope for scandal within this subject is, for two reasons, negligible.

Umpires now inspect the ball regularly to check on its condition and will report any bowler guilty of significantly altering it. But few bowlers act entirely to the letter of the law when handling the ball and, as one former England bowler said yesterday: "If Matthews is found guilty for that, I will give you another 100 names immediately."

No action taken over Lara's gesture of defiance

BY MEL WEBB

WORLD cricket's most celebrated dissident, Brian Lara, is to have no action taken against him for withdrawing from the West Indies party for the World Series Cup tournament, being played at present in Australia. Indeed, it would seem that it has been left to him to return to the team when he feels like it.

Lara withdrew from the Australian tour the day after he had become one of four West Indies cricketers who had ten per cent deducted from their fees for breaches of discipline during the tour to England earlier this year.

Lara's dispute with the West Indies Cricket Board of Control (WICBC) has become something of a cause célèbre for the 26-year-old Trinidadian left-hander. He is believed to have become increasingly disenchanted with the captaincy style of Richie Richardson during the England tour, a feeling that erupted into a confrontation after the fourth Test at Old Trafford, when Lara is said to have accused Richardson of failing to inject enough discipline into the team.

In his report to the WICBC, Richardson said he was not "prepared to bow to any egotistical people who have agendas". Lara walked out after the heated exchange, saying he had "retired", but subsequently rejoined the touring side after an intervention by Peter Short, the WICBC president.

Lara, who was under the impression that the matter had been resolved, was shocked to learn of the fine levied upon him and promptly withdrew from the squad, which was due to leave for Australia two days later.

The WICBC's latest decision was announced by Short after a special general meeting of members of the executive. "As no contractual agreements were in force between Brian Lara and the WICBC for this tour, there was no breach of contract and subsequently no disciplinary action is relevant," he said.

Was this, then, the end of the matter, bearing in mind the forthcoming World Cup in India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka? "From our point of view it is," Short said. "I am sure it is the wish of the board and all West Indians that he will be available for the World Cup."

Lara's absence was given added poignancy by a dismal West Indies performance against Australia in their World Series Cup match in Adelaide yesterday. They were were beaten by 121 runs and never threatened the Australian total of 242 for six as they subsided to their second emphatic defeat in three days.

West Indies never recovered after losing their first four wickets for 17 runs by the ninth over. Chanderpaul (39) and Harper (31 not out) strove unavailingly to give the scoreboard a measure of respectability; a perplexed Richardson, meanwhile, was left to hope for an early end to Lara's sabbatical.

☐ There was an exciting end to New Zealand's one-day international against Pakistan in Christchurch, the home side winning with one ball and one wicket in hand.

Scoreboards 33

Memories of Dexter's epic drive lift Durban depression



JOHN WOODCOCK

At Kingsmead

The past two days here at Kingsmead have been depressing beyond words. To lose a few hours, sometimes a whole day, of a Durban Test match is not unusual; but this one has been completely ruined by the weather.

It was developing into a real scrap, too. On the first two days there was some good bowling and some very good catching in conditions that promoted swing and occasional movement off the seam. Runs were understandably scarce, and no sooner did one side seem to establish an advantage than the other hit back. For England, their choice of bowlers embellished the text.

One of the commentary boxes at the ground would pass for a holiday home for superannuated England captains. There, as elsewhere among the England team's followers, there was consternation last Thursday morning at the omission from Michael Atherton's side of the mercurial Malcolm and the yeoman Fraser. Where were the fireworks and the perseverance and the acquired knowledge to come from, it was asked.

In the event, England benefited by the changes. Martin displays certain old-fashioned values; he pitches the ball up and is decently accurate. At 27, he is ready for his chance, and as long as he does not damage his back by bowling too many bouncers he could well become a fixture.

For Ilott to do the same, he will need to move the ball about appreciably more than he did on the first day here. Bowling left-arm over the wicket at medium pace, it is difficult to do as little with a new ball as he did in his opening spell then. But he provides a contrast, and he looked more of a proposition on Friday when he picked up three useful wickets.

It was Richard Illingworth, though, who first fenced South Africa in after they had scored 50 in the opening hour of the match without a moment's anxiety; and there was a clear message to be found in that. It was that no side should take the field against South African opposition without a good specialist spinner. It was no coincidence, surely, that when England made do with the imitation off breaks of Graeme Hick in the second Test match in Johannesburg South Africa made all the runs they needed.

Time and again over the years I have watched South African batsmen, even some prolific ones, disconcerted by orthodox slow bowlers simply dropping the ball on a length. There is no need to possess any great powers of spin. Accuracy is the key; plain, unwavering accuracy, with the wind to be harnessed for drift when it blows as stiffly as it did in Durban on Thursday and often does in Port Elizabeth. In his maturity, Richard Illingworth has become a sound professional operator, lacking, perhaps, the virtuosity of a Wardle or the venom of an Underwood, but thoroughly competent for all that.

Included in the South Africa party for the next Test match, to be named today, may well be Paul Adams, the little Cape Coloured conjuror, who bowls spinners out of the back of his left hand. No one is keener that he should be than Dr Ali Bacher, the guiding light of South African cricket, who sees the development of Adams as a providential way of boosting the game among South Africa's non-whites. England's batsmen, I fancy, are equally keen that Adams should be kept as far away from them as possible, though they would never, of course, say so.

The South African selector is an inveterately cautious soul. As a type, he has long tended to take the attritional option and the well-worn South African formula of lining up a succession of fast or fastish bowlers who give next to nothing away makes them a very hard side to beat. In only four of their past 15 Test matches have they played a spinner. They have been suspicious of doing so ever since Hugh Tayfield retired some 35 years ago, as suspicious as even the West Indians are now.

So the good doctor cannot be sure that his wish will be granted and that Adams, even if he is in the squad for Port Elizabeth, will actually play there. If he does it will open up the series, and after the frustration of the weekend that is much needed. This is Durban's 26th Test match (the first was in 1910) and by some way its wettest.

Even the Country Club was deserted yesterday. There, 30 years ago, Ted Dexter became the talk of the local sporting world by driving the last green. Modern technology had yet to make a hit of 285 yards seem commonplace — and people still came to Durban to watch cricket in the sunshine. Gary Player, by the way, reckoned Dexter to be as fine an English striker of a golf ball as he ever saw.

Towering effort sees off eager Leicester

IF EVER there was a time when London Towers were going to falter in pursuit of their first Budweiser League basketball title, it should have been the past week when they were missing Tony Windless, their key American forward, (Nicholas Harling writes).

Without their man from Memphis, who was hurt when he crashed into his team's bench during the 7-Up Trophy semi-final against Birmingham Bullets last Tuesday, Towers were expected to succumb to their rivals, Manchester Giants, on Friday and perhaps even to Leicester City Riders, the next evening. But they won both games to go six points clear at the top.

Nobody found adversity more challenging than Steve Bucknall who, after hitting the Giants for 27 points during the 83-77 win on Friday, scored another 29 in his team's 79-59 success at Leicester. And nobody is more loath to over-emphasise the value of one man than the Towers coach, Kevin Cadle. "We played the pre-season without Tony, he said, "and we did OK then. All we needed now was for someone to step up and score points from inside and Neville Austin has done that."

Indeed, Austin did collect 24 on Friday but on Saturday it was Bucknall's ten successive points for Towers that inspired a 17-0 streak at the start of the final quarter that turned the game on its head.

Birmingham Bullets, London's hosts in the second leg of the Trophy on Wednesday — when they resume only two points adrift — led for most of the game but still managed to go down 98-83 to Thames Valley Tigers.

Sheffield Sharks go into the other Trophy semi-final at Ponds Forge on Wednesday, leading Worthing Bears by a point after taking the first leg on Saturday 87-86.

JULIAN HERBERT



John Whitaker en route to victory on Everest Randi

Skelton's gamble just fails

BY JENNY MACARTHUR

LUDGER BEERBAUM, of Germany, the Olympic champion, won the Volvo World Cup qualifier at Olympia on Saturday by one hundredth of a second from Nick Skelton, of Britain, after one of the most spectacular jump-offs in the 23-year history of the show.

With the world's top 14 riders competing — and a bold new course designer in Aki Ylaenne, of Finland — a top-class contest had never been in doubt. But the quality of jumping in the seven-horse final round against the clock exceeded all expectations.

Beerbaum had the disadvantage of going second. "With so many top riders coming after me I knew I had to go as fast as I dared," he said. In the 13-year-old Hanoverian Gaylord — the winner of the grand prix last year and runner-up in the World Cup — he had a horse to match his courage. Their turn into the third fence was so acute it was difficult to believe they had pulled it off. "There aren't many other horses I would have tried it on," Beerbaum said. They finished in a time of 33.49sec.

Jan Tops, of Holland, on Top Gun La Silla and Hugo Simon, of Austria, on Apricot D, two of Europe's leading riders, had both failed to match the German's time before Skelton, on his World Cup-winner, Everest Dollar Girl, entered the ring.

Knowing he had to produce something extra, Skelton took a daring short cut across the arena to the fifth fence. "I suddenly saw a gap and went for it," he said. With the crowd screaming him on it looked as if his gamble had succeeded but, looking up at the clock, he saw his time of 33.50sec — and shook his head in disbelief.

Beerbaum's compatriot, Franke Sloothaak, the world champion, was last to go on Weihaiwej. It would have been hard to produce a more fluent, polished round but it left him in only third place. Yesterday Skelton, 37, had some compensation when Everest Dollar Girl won The Christmas Hamper competition. Although the prize was £3,500 — compared with the £20,000 car won by Beerbaum in the qualifier — Skelton was delighted with the performance of his 15-year-old mare.

"She's jumping better than ever — she just loves it," he said. The mare's career winnings now amount to £850,000 and Skelton, who will rest her now and ride Showtime in the grand prix tonight, has won £250,000 with her since January.

The Whitaker brothers have produced the only other British wins. John won The Christmas Knockout on Everest Randi yesterday and Michael gained his second success on My Messieur in the Christmas Cake Stakes on Saturday.

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Bradford pay penalty as Cook loses recipe for success

Bradford Bulls 12
Leeds 16

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

FOR the third time this season, Paul Cook's goalkicking decided a Yorkshire rugby league derby in favour of Leeds. Yesterday, his misses, in a Bradford shirt, were the difference in an abject encounter.

The England wing's reincarnation last week from Leeds bull's eye to Bradford Bull was an unexpected one, and certainly seemed to have a disorientating effect. Cook landed two from in front of the posts, but was off target with four other attempts.

Leeds, reduced by injuries to playing the final quarter with 12 players, responded to their plight, as Bradford shrank from their task. When Harmon plunged over for his second and the visitors' winning score in the 74th minute, the Bulls lost what little heart and direction they had.

The home side also ended in the wars, with Nickle, their one forward of real conviction, carried off. For Leeds, the absence through injury of Holroyd, Iro and Innes for the visit by London Broncos tomorrow, leaves them in disarray.

Not that Leeds are really in any position to take advantage of Wigan's extraordinary slip at Oldham. St Helens, especially if they could win at Central Park on Boxing Day, are in a marginally better position. However, the formality of Wigan's march to a seventh successive Stones Championship title continues to render most of the league season meaningless and produces mundane contests like this one yesterday at Odsal.

Tactical kicking was woeful from both sides and retention of possession no better. It took pieces of individualism to lighten the gloom. Harmon's driving play was rewarded with his first short-range touchdown. Nickle's reply was an unstoppable solo effort, as was that of Holroyd with an angled run to the right corner.

There was brief confusion between the touch judges before Cook's second penalty attempt was declared not to have gone over. There was a further miss before he finally found his target before the break. Immediately afterwards, Paul sped 40 metres from a scrum. Cook failed to convert, but a second penalty gave Bradford a two-point lead which they held for 25 minutes. Although bruised and depleted, Leeds rode out Bradford's subsequent attacking efforts, before Harmon's decisive intervention.

SCORERS: Bradford: Tries: Nickle, Paul. Goals: Cook (2) Leeds: Tries: Harmon (2), Holroyd Goals: Holroyd, Cummins

BRADFORD BULLS: R Simpson, G Christie, M Calland, P Loughlin, P Cook; N Summers (sub C Hassan, 75mm), R Paul; Brian McDermott, J Donohue (sub N Graham, 64), J Harmer (sub E Bourneville, 59), P Medley, S Nickle, S Knox (sub A Turpin, 62)

LEEDS: A Gibbons, M Golden, K Iro (sub Field, 53), C Hall, F Cummins; C Innes (sub D Gibbons, 7), G Holroyd, N Harmon, J Lowes, Barrie McDermott (sub H Howard, 45), G Mann, J Field (sub A Morley, 45), M Forshaw.

Referee: R Smith

Oldham produced one of the surprise results of the season when they beat Wigan, the world club champions, 28-26 in a Stones Championship match at the Watersheddings yesterday. Without eight first-team players, Oldham battled bravely but were trailing 26-22 with four minutes left when Martin Crompton, a former Wigan player, touched down near the posts. Francis Maloney kicked the winning points.

Britain's WBC heavyweight title-holder scornful of former champion's aspirations

Tyson's lacklustre showing fails to impress Bruno

FROM SRIKUMAR SEN, BOXING CORRESPONDENT, IN PHILADELPHIA

FRANK BRUNO could be the undisputed heavyweight champion of the world by the end of next year — if his assessment of Mike Tyson's performance against Buster Mathis Jr at the Spectrum here on Saturday night is correct. While the pundits were trying to analyse why Tyson took three rounds to subdue his flabby opponent, Bruno was already insisting that he had seen nothing in Tyson's performance to change his view that he could beat the former champion and, indeed, the other two champions, Bruce Seldon (World Boxing Association) and Frans Botha, of South Africa (International Boxing Federation). Once Bruno gets past Tyson, the other two champions, who are third rate, would fall to the Briton.

Tyson's untidy struggle to bring the contest under his control left Bruno in no doubt that he could deal with the monster of the ring without too much fuss. "Iron Mike is rusty Mike," Bruno said. "He is there for the taking. I will knock him out in five rounds. Tyson didn't show much. He's just going through the motions. I am 210 per cent better than when I fought him last.

"I'm a stone and a half heavier and much stronger. Tyson could not live with me. For five rounds he will not live with me. He doesn't look right. I am not a clairvoyant or a medium, but there's something wrong with him."

Bruno said that when he was invited to No 10 recently, he told the visiting President Clinton that he would beat Tyson.

"I told President Clinton 'your boy's going to get a whipping on the night,'" Bruno said. "I told him, it will be England against the United States and I don't want to embarrass England. I said Tyson was going to look good on my CV."

On the face of it, the former champion certainly did not look like the Tyson of old. His timing was poor. He missed and punched the air trying to catch Mathis. In the first round, Tyson was unable to land a punch while Mathis worked away inside. Having been trained by Joey Fariello, one of the team of Cus D'Amato when the legendary trainer had Tyson under his wing, Mathis had learnt how to frustrate Tyson. By boxing up close, he prevented Tyson from finding room for leverage. Several times Tyson tried to break away to find space but Mathis was always quickly under his punches.

In the third round, however, Tyson managed to twist free from Mathis's grip and push him on to the ropes. As Mathis once again advanced, head down, Tyson brought a right uppercut that landed slap in the middle of Mathis's face.

Mathis straightened up, his mouth bleeding. That was all Tyson needed. A left missed but the following right had already been launched. It caught Mathis's head a glancing blow and sent him staggering backwards. As Mathis stood swaying, the sagging flesh of his chest sinking into a heap, Tyson's second right caught him under the ribs and Mathis was sent flying on to his back. He did not even hear the first eight seconds of the count. The finish was vintage Tyson. "I was cool. Bruno? give me a break," he said afterwards. But Bruno was not convinced. He could not wait to get Tyson in the ring. And Fariello said: "Bruno's the last man Tyson should fight now. They are rushing him."

"But he'd better be there on March 16," Bruno insisted. "I'm going to knock him out, clean. Tyson is made for me. A guy coming out of prison after four years and getting $55 million (about £35 million) in his hands to do whatever he wants to do, don't tell me he's fit and hungry."

Bruno was not one for dwelling on the past, however. "That punch that I hit him with when we first met, that's history," the Briton said. "Henry Cooper knocked down Muhammad Ali but it didn't help him when Ali got up. That's out of my mind. I can't live off that. But I can assure you the next time I rock Mike Tyson, I'm going to rock him to sleep and that's no hype."

Bruno said he would be going to train for ten weeks in Tenerife "because I'm going to hold on to my WBC title — it's the Rolls-Royce of titles, no way is he going to take that away from me.

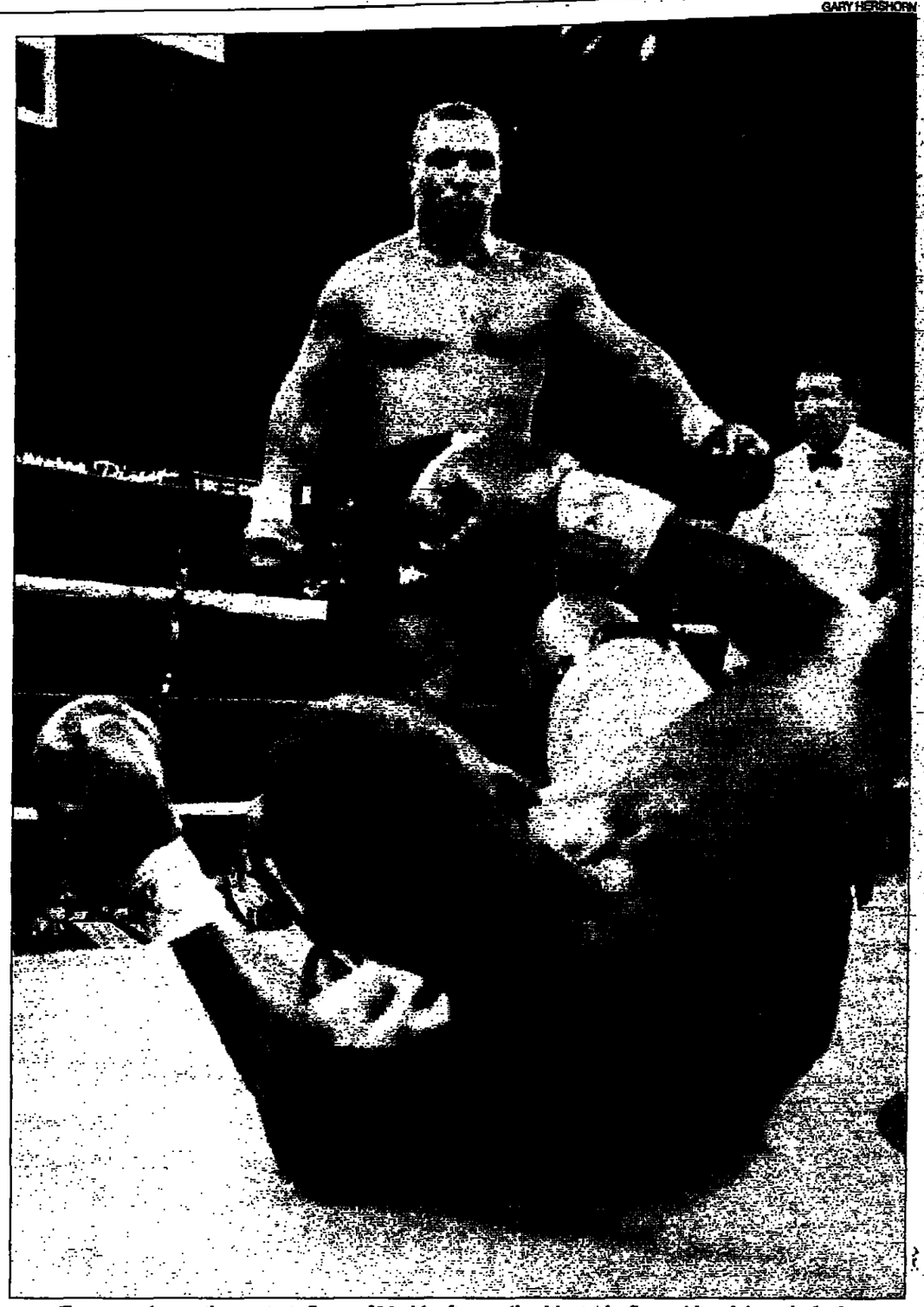
"He's come out of prison and he's very strong, now he's bulked up again. But that's all immaterial. They crack up when they are there. I know, I've visited prisons. You can't run. You can't get the proper fresh air. You can do press-ups, sit-ups, whatever but that's not the same as when you're out and free.

"He is confused at the moment. Mentally, prison messes you up."

Bruno claimed he was determined to carry the flag with pride. He said: "You know what they think of us English guys. They ain't got respect for you. I just want to show him that he must have respect for English boys. I intend to do my country proud."

Plans for Bruno's defence against Tyson are already well advanced. The two will go on a promotional tour to attempt to make Showtime's forecast of pay-per-view sales to 28 million homes in the United States, and 100 million abroad, a reality.

GARY HERSHORN



Tyson stands over the prostrate figure of Mathis after sending him to the floor with a right to the body

Mystical occasion which makes City men decamp

Simon Wilde finds the answer to a sporting question rugby-goers have never asked

It was a good question. Why were 70,000 people — largely males — prepared to brave a dank December afternoon at Twickenham to watch mostly second-rate players produce the sort of second-rate rugby that the University match usually provides? Not all of them could be curious to see the "new" Twickenham; not all, surely, nostalgic for one of the last bastions of amateurism.

There was only one way to find out and the answer was not slow in coming. A couple of throw-away remarks about a suggested trip to the match last Tuesday resulted in a neighbour and a brother-in-law eagerly taking the day off. The neighbour, who works in the City, justified his decision by saying that the City would effectively close down for the afternoon anyway. The brother-in-law would bring a friend, whose movements — it transpired — were less clear to his office.

Experienced rugby-goers, they knew the form, and the form involved meeting two hours before kick-off in the Alma, a public house in Wandsworth, which — amazingly, in view of its distance from Twickenham — was heaving with people. Rugby people.

Most of them seemed to wear heavy woollen jumpers and know each other. It was then that the realisation dawned. The City had not closed down, it had simply decamped to various alehouses around southwest London. What is more, these people may have been steadily drinking, smoking and slapping backs but many were networking quite nicely as well.

Too late, it seemed, we left for the ground. But one ruck onto a carriage at Wandsworth Town station, a breathless 20-minute scrummage inside, and a rucked exit at the other end and we were yomping towards the extraordinary concrete spider that crouches over Twickenham's dwellings in time for the kick-off. We were not the only ones either. Rugby followers have a special gift for the last-minute entrance.

It took several minutes to get over the breathtaking splendour of the triple-decker stands that surround three sides of the pitch. Once attention had turned to the game, it was obvious that, even situated near the front of the North Stand, one end of the pitch was frustratingly distant, even if well lit by the new floodlights. Goodness knows what play looked like from the back of the top deck.

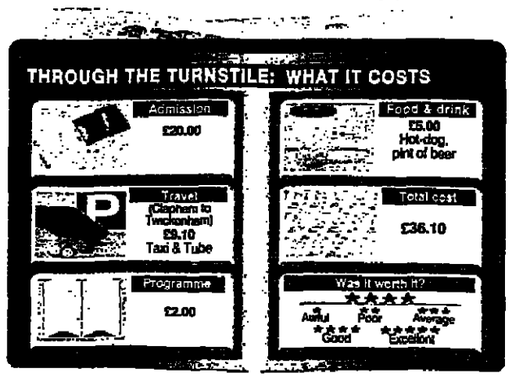
But it did not matter. The drama, if not always the rugby, was gripping. Oxford, the underdogs, led for most of the match before being overhauled in the closing seconds of a pulsating last five minutes. During that time the match position changed three times and left even neutral observers — and there must have been plenty of those — jumping with joy.

Even what, on other occasions, might be an irritant — the absence of a clock displaying how much playing time remains — only added to the thrills because each late twist seemed as though it had to be the last. It was only proper to toast such a finish with a drink at one of the many bars around the ground, and a lot of people did that. It was a fine drink, too, better than the not-so-hot hot dogs.

Then it was off to join another friend who was busy corporate-entertaining on a double-decker bus in the car park of a nearby supermarket. The supermarket's lease stipulates that it must close on match days so that the car park can be used in this way. And used it was.

After two more rucks and another scrum we were back in the Alma, where some familiar faces and heavy woollen jumpers were singing with gusto. The pub was no less busy; the only difference was that Cambridge had more supporters. Seven hours after leaving the hostelry for the first time, we departed again, this time for a nearby restaurant.

Later I discovered a nice irony. Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, had chosen that day to announce publication of the Government's report into alcohol consumption. It was entitled *Sensible Drinking*. But the most sensible stricture was missing from the report. Do not ever, ever, drink with rugby men.



Haberdashers' tour de force

BY ANDREW LONGMORE

IT SEEMS a far cry from my school tours to Cambridge and the Isle of Man, wrote Michael Atherton in the brochure for the Haberdashers' Aske's School tour of the Far East. A far cry indeed. This tour is one of the most ambitious ever undertaken by an English school, a veritable sporting triathlon, taking in not just three countries — Hong Kong, Malaysia and Singapore — but three different sports: rugby, hockey and cricket. Haberdashers', based in Elstree, Hertfordshire, and old hands at touring overseas, have taken separate teams before, but not a multi-purpose side like this.

The party of 34 boys and four masters set out last Friday evening and, barring plague, pestilence, earthquake or insurrection, should already be in combat. However, more than once over the past few weeks, Doug Yeabsley, the tour organiser, would quite happily have swapped three exotic weeks in Asia for an away day to Douglas.

The original plan, devised two years ago, was to tour Sri Lanka and Hong Kong. But the Sri Lankan leg had to be cancelled because of political unrest, halving the trip to ten days and reducing many of the party to tears of despair when the inevitable announcement was made just three weeks before lift-off.

Yeabsley, whose many hats — master in charge of cricket, rugby coach, appeals director and chemistry teacher — are crammed under the official heading of "School Support Director", is a veteran of tour organisation and, after 30 years playing for Devon in Minor Counties cricket, a master of recovering lost causes. "The parents had worked so hard and the boys were so upset, I thought we had to do something," he said.

By judicious use of his intelligence network in the Far East and an indestructible facsimile machine, Yeabsley began to piece together an alternative fixture-list in Singapore and Malaysia. Forty faxes in three days flew between Haberdashers' offices, airlines and contacts such as Julian True, who had chaperoned the school's first tour to Hong Kong in 1983, Tunku Ahmed, chairman of Sime Darby in Kuala Lumpur, and Chris Syer, whose passion for cricket has extended to re-establishing a Lord's Taverners outpost in Malaysia.

SPORT IN SCHOOLS

HUGH ROUTLEDGE



Haberdashers' team captains, Jason Bilimoria, left, James Cartmell and Jimmy Gross

By the end of it a new itinerary, and a thoroughly competitive fixture list, had taken shape and the disappointment of Sri Lanka had been submerged by the elation of a rescheduled tour. Even the prospect of taking on the Singapore under-21 national side at hockey on two consecutive days was greeted with boundless enthusiasm.

"To be honest, when the idea was mooted about going to Singapore, I didn't think it could be arranged from the playing point of view," Yeabsley said. "But it was worth a try. So I called Tunku and he said immediately: 'You've got to come, leave it to me.' That really gave us heart.

"It was a stressful time because the boys were anxious to know what was going on. 'Is there any chance, sir?' 'What about New Zealand, sir?' that sort of thing. It has really dominated school life for the last three weeks and it meant a lot of late nights, faxing and telephoning."

A call at 3am from Tunku Ahmed, bringing the simple message — "It is not a problem. I'll phone you in the morning" — was the moment of fulfilment. When Yeabsley told the school the next day that the full tour was back on, the usual cynicism evaporated into applause.

Haberdashers' were not the only school hit by the troubles in Sri Lanka. Royal Grammar School, Worcester, cancelled their cricket tour for first XI and under-16 sides, but have managed to rearrange it, also in Singapore and Malaysia, through Edwin Doran, the local travel agent. "Emotions have been all over the place over the past few weeks," Martin Horton, the cricket coach, said. "The main problem was rearranging flights for 30 people, but it all worked out in the end."

A boy in the sixth form, whose father is South African, and a sister-in-law of the cricket master living in Johannesburg were the tentative contacts through which King's School, Macclesfield, rearranged their aborted Sri Lankan tour. The tour for 15 boys will now go ahead in South Africa at February half-term: further evidence that with an enterprising spirit, good use of available talent, influential contacts, a reliable travel agent, endlessly patient parents and a touch of blind faith, drama need not develop into crisis.

Parker builds on his inheritance

BY SALLY JONES

THIS week a former England and Sussex cricketer will be following the progress of the 15-year-old favourite for the junior colts event in the public schools rackets championship with more than a passing interest. Paul Parker, now a classics master at Tonbridge school, in Kent, tries unsuccessfully to conceal a glow of pride as he watches his son, James, a precociously talented sporting all-rounder, in action at Queen's Club.

It is hard to believe that the small, wiry teenager has been playing rackets for little more than a year, but the fast reflexes and astute tactical sense inherited from his father more than compensate for his inexperience.

Earlier this year he created a sensation and set a record that looks unlikely to be broken when, after only two terms of rackets, he reached the final of the public schools doubles championship for second pairs, beating a string of experienced senior partnerships, most aged 17 or 18.

"It was pretty amazing," he said. "The beauty of it was, there was absolutely no pressure on me so I just went for my shots and everything flowed." Ironically, he attributed much of his rapid progress to a fortuitous injury. "When I got to Tonbridge, they said the rackets professional, David Makey, wanted me on the court, but I'd seen the game being played and felt really scared and nervous because this small, hard ball whizzed about so much, so I said no, I'd rather play squash and rugby.

"All the same, I went along and found I could actually hit the ball, which was a terrific feeling. Then, two weeks later, I broke my ankle so I couldn't play rugby and instead I spent about one and a half hours each day standing on the rackets court while David belted balls at me and I tried to hit everything back that I could. By the time the plaster came off, the strokes felt quite natural and I was hooked."



Parker: precocious

informative:

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Loans of £50,000 and above	7.79% pa	7.54% pa

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Newcomers provide rare encouragement as drab victory underlines limitations



Hopley, the England right wing, is stopped in his tracks by Telea, of Western Samoa, during a colourless match at Twickenham on Saturday. Photograph: Marc Aspland

Samoans stress England's decline

England 27
Western Samoa 9

BY DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

PERHAPS we never fully realised how completely the bottom had dropped out of England's game during the rugby union World Cup last summer. If we did not, then Western Samoa's first appearance at Twickenham in an international was a powerful reminder of the work that lies ahead if England are to justify their status as one of the world's best teams.

Hard graft it will be, too. When inspiration is absent, as it is in English rugby union at the moment, there is always the work ethic to turn to, but that will not warm too many hearts on chill afternoons such as Saturday. At least, with contracts signed and sealed, 75,000 paying customers have the right to demand efficiency from their heroes, and they did not get that either.

England were as drab as the weather against a Samoan side that lived up to its heritage, natural and imported. If there is one country that can identify how best to upset an opponent, it is New Zealand, which is where half the Samoa team play their rugby. Merely because an English divisional side can score 40 points against them one week does not make the result of another game a fortnight later inevitable.

Thus Pat Lam, the Samoa captain, could speak of decisions made on the hoof that proved embarrassing to England, and Bryan Williams, the Samoa coach and one of the best of All Black wings, of preparation that encompassed work on set pieces — where he knew England would be strong — and methods of play designed to keep play away from those strengths.

That those methods involved living on, and beyond, the offside line (27 penalties or free kicks were awarded to England, against eight for the Samoans), could be taken for granted, and England — as has so frequently been the case — were not good enough in the Save and Prosper international to rise above them. But the quality of England's previous three opponents, New Zealand, France and South Africa, had disguised the decline in English play.

One may accept, to a degree, that the introduction of new players takes time, but they are part of a team that has substantial experience in all areas save the vital one of half back. It should not have been beyond such a side to capitalise on a lineout on the Samoa line in the first half, but Bayfield, the catcher, was surrounded by a forest of upright Englishmen while the low, driving positions of the Samoans forced their heavier opponents back, and eventually won the turnover.

The game, Jack Rowell suggested afterwards, is about accumulating points, and so it is. "We expect miracles from young players at the snap of a finger and that's just not on," the England manager argued, though in point of fact it was the display of the Northampton half backs, on their debuts, that was the brightest part of the game. Would that other, older hands could have been as organised and effective as Paul Grayson, as bouncy as Matt Dawson.

Grayson's return of 17 points, with only two kicks missed, is a healthy total with which to begin an international career, but more than that, the confidence with which he made decisions, employed his backs or went for field position, bodes well. He has learnt where the game should be played far more quickly than Catt, who may prosper at stand-off half at club level through the quality of players around him at Bath, who can compensate for his imperfections.

International rugby is a different game, and Grayson's debut suggests that he now deserves a prolonged tilt at it. He succeeded, moreover, in the face of a superbly committed Samoan defence. "We tried to deny England time and space, we got up and knocked them over," Williams said. "It may not have been the game the crowd wanted to see, but we were determined not to allow them that freedom. England are like South Africa — they squeeze the life out of you."

Samoan satisfaction was increased by the weekend news out of Auckland that their Pacific rim tournament next summer has been confirmed: seven games, nine for the two most successful teams, with appropriate commercial backing, offers a solid future, and inspired Williams to suggest some kind of world play-off between the winners of the five nations' championship, the tripartite tournament for the leading southern hemisphere nations, and the pan-Pacific tournament, in the near future.

For England, such a venture is some distance away. Grayson's first five penalties, all cleanly struck, whistled between the posts and covered up the absence of continuity and momentum in England's game. Kellett could convert only half his chances, two in the first half and one in the second, when, in a brief three minutes, England hinted at the art of the possible.

Clarke and Dallaglio, doing what good back-row forwards should do rather than slowing down play in midfield, combined from a five-metre scrum for the first try, and Clarke's driving run established the ruck from which Grayson and Catt worked Underwood over the line for the 48th time in an England jersey. It was, though, only a fitful flash of lightning from the lowering clouds.

SCORERS: England: Tries: Dallaglio, Underwood Conversion: Grayson. Penalty goals: Grayson (5) Western Samoa: Penalty goals: Kellett (3)

ENGLAND: M J Catt (Bath), D P Hopley (Wasps), W D C Carling (Harlequins, captain), J C Guscott (Bath), R Underwood (Leicester/RAF), P J Grayson (Northampton), M J S Dawson (Northampton); G C Rowntree (Leicester), M P Regan (Bristol), J Leonard (Harlequins), T A K Rodber (Northampton/Army), M O Johnson (Leicester), M C Bayfield (Northampton), L B N Dallaglio (Wasps), B B Clarke (Bath).

WESTERN SAMOA: V Patu (Vaiala); B Lima (Marist), T Vaega (Te Atatu), G Leaupepe (Te Atatu), A Telea (Petone); D Kellett (Ponsonby), J Filemu (Wellington); M Mika (Otago University), T Lelesamalva'o (Wellington), P Fatialofa (Manukau), S Kaleta (Ponsonby), P Leavasa (Apia), L Falaniko (Marist) S Valtale (Marist), P Lam (Marist, captain) Falaniko replaced by S Smith (Helensville, 74min)

Referee: I Rogers (South Africa)

Brian Moore, the former England hooker, confirmed his retirement from international rugby on Saturday. Moore rescinded an earlier decision to retire during the World Cup but has been overlooked this season and thus ends a career of 64 England appearances and five for the British Isles.

Rowell failing to manage at the highest level



JOHN HOPKINS
At Twickenham

I am worried about Jack Rowell. I am worried about England. It is 20 months since Rowell took over from Geoff Cooke and there is a disturbing torpor about England. On Saturday, the team was slow-handclapped and whistled at in a way that has not been heard at Twickenham in this decade, and not often in the past decade. England supporters were cheering Western Samoa, jeering their own team. What is wrong?

When Rowell was appointed England manager there was not a dissenting voice in the country. In his role as coach of Bath, he had been the outstanding figure in English club rugby for so long it was a relief that such a square peg was available for a square hole. Then the chief executive of Golden Wonder Crisps and on the main board of Dalgety, the parent company, Rowell had a reputation for shredding an argument quicker than he could crunch a packet of his own crisps.



'He gave the impression of not being on top of things'

On Thursday, at the England team's hotel, Rowell walked into the lounge after breakfast. He looked, as he so often does, rather like the absent-minded professor, his white hair somewhat unkempt, peering short-sightedly through his glasses. He resembled a man arriving at a railway station and not knowing from which platform his train departed. He blinked, looked around and then darted out through the front door of the hotel, running to catch the team transport.

No one should be hanged for being late for an appointment but this vignette gave a worrying impression of a man who was not absolutely on top of things, not as on top of things as one would have expected such a successful businessman to be. England's recent performances under him do nothing to contradict this view. England do not bear the stamp of authority and tactical awareness that were so evident at Bath in Rowell's time there.

At Bath, Rowell brilliantly synthesised the varying talents and forceful personalities of Stuart Barnes, John Hall, Richard Hill and Jeremy Guscott. He knew how to manage men and he always had a game-plan. Rowell says he is trying to set a framework for England within which the players can express themselves. It is not working. In the pool matches in the World Cup in South Africa, England players were said to be tauter than piano strings. One observer said the tension was palpable and he wanted nothing so much as to be able to tell the England players to go out one night and let their hair down. Then and later England looked jaded and lacking in flair. They were exposed by the pace and quick-thinking of New Zealand and then by France's doughtiness in the third-place play-off.

England were inept against Western Samoa. They did not look as though they had a game-plan or were well managed. It does not help that Les Cusworth, the England backs coach, is said to find Will Carling an ultra-conservative and a barrier to England playing a more expansive game. Western Samoa played to the laws on Saturday, at times killing the ball and standing up to and beyond the advantage line. No one should have needed to point out to Rowell that this would happen. Rowell said afterwards that his men were trying to play champagne rugby when what was needed was five nations' grind. He is the manager and the coach, solely responsible for tactics since Dick Best, the former coach, was dismissed a year ago. If the team are playing the wrong way, who else but Rowell is to blame?

In October, Rowell was named as chairman of a new management consultancy company. It was further proof that he can cut the mustard at the highest level in business. The charge against him is that he has failed to bring any of the managerial practices he has demonstrated so expertly in his business career to bear on the England rugby team. It is time he started to manage.

Northampton half backs deserve extended run



Rob Andrew says his successor at stand-off half did all that could have been expected of him

The momentum which has carried English rugby forward so far derived from the 1991 team, and was enough to overcome a transitional hiccup in 1993-94 and sustain an assault on the World Cup last summer. Now England are in the second phase of transition which will have to be managed very carefully.

Most of the spine of the side — hooker, No 8, half backs — has gone and will not be replaced overnight. In addition, these were strong characters, players like Brian Moore and Dean Richards who played the game with a passion and, like others who preceded them, such as Peter Winterbottom and Mike Teague, refused to lose.

No side can carry on as though nothing has changed, particularly when so many of the deficiences in the English game remain to be addressed: the pace at which the game is played, the lack of intensity in our weekly rugby. Many of us have come to the conclusion that the way forward is through the medium of super clubs which can rival the best of the southern-hemisphere provincial teams but, until that time arrives, our players have to find their feet in the international arena itself.

Many of the weaknesses on Saturday stemmed from basic skills which players will have to take far more seriously than perhaps some of them do now. At Twickenham passes went to ground or behind players, the ball was lost in contact, carried a yard further than it should have been. It would have been interesting to see the Samoans given the same amount of ball as England because, as individuals, they looked far more dynamic.

Their approach, not surprisingly, was reminiscent of New Zealand, where ball is recycled very quickly and the half back moves it on to get his runners behind the defence. In England the effort is fragmented, partly through slow delivery and partly because forwards get in the way of half backs or further down the line, and possession is not taken forward at pace.

But the Northampton halves played well. Anyone expecting perfection from players in their first appearance is unlikely to get it and youngsters like Matt Dawson and Paul Grayson will have to be given the chance to develop as international footballers. Scrum half is possibly the most difficult position in which to play well in international rugby because you make such an impact on what happens, and so much is going on around you.

There are only split seconds in which to take important decisions and Matt made some mistakes; but he is confident, he never let his head drop. Paul looked the part at stand-off half. His goalkicking was very good and striking his first four goals in the first half would have given him an enormous boost. He kicks well out of hand and tried hard to get his line moving.

But the point here is that the management has to back its belief in a certain group of players and allow them to grow together. They need to come to know each other well, so that they will play for each other, in the same way so many of the teams with which I was involved did. Dawson and Grayson need to be told there is nobody better than them in the country so that they can develop into international footballers — not merely front-rank club players.

Similarly, if Mike Catt, whose confidence suffered a knock in South Africa and has since moved between No 10 and No 15, is the answer at full back he needs a run there, otherwise you create confusion and insecurity.

This reshaped team needs to be given the chance to blossom because the tests that lie ahead will only become greater.



Grayson's skilful kicking was a plus for England

Former glory revived by Penarth

BY GERALD DAVIES

THE fourth round of the Swalec Cup saw the departure of two Heineken League first division clubs. Caerphilly, from the second division, ousted Aberavon by 27 points and Penarth, who once could claim a fixture against the Barbarians but who are now languishing in the middle of the third division, beat Ebbw Vale.

Caerphilly, who do not know yet whether they will play Rhymney or Nelson in the next round, are favoured with a home draw, as are Penarth, who have drawn a plum fixture against their neighbours, Cardiff. It should ensure the kind of capacity crowd they have not enjoyed since the heyday of their Good Friday fixtures against the Barbarians. Carmarthen Quins so nearly joined these two after being 15 points behind Bridgend at one stage: only three points separated the teams at the end.

Llanharan, in the 1980s, were a much-feared club and accomplished many a giant-killing act. There was no such fear on Saturday. Five tries in the first half, ten in the second and a total of 102 points in all ensured the swift progress of Pontypridd.

An upset might have been expected at Treorchy who, in winning only one of their league matches so far, are clearly not experiencing the best of times. Kidwelly, on the other hand, are romping away with the fifth division title.

After a torrid opening quarter the referee had to issue a general warning about the rough play. Andrew Thomas, the home side's hooker, insisted on pursuing his wayward ways and was immediately sent to an early bath for which, bearing in mind the finger-numbing coldness, he might have been grateful. Not at all. He was still fuming in the in-goal area until spectators persuaded him that it would be in his best interests to keep his mouth shut.

Kidwelly are 13 points ahead of their nearest rivals in the division and are the first to top 50 tries in the whole of the Heineken League. Their enterprising brand of rugby, however — as exemplified in the final try by Wyn Thomas — was not good enough against the 14 Treorchy men desperately trying to recapture the glory of recent years. Tries by Jones (two) and Payne, all of which were converted by David Evans, who also kicked three penalties, gave them a half-time lead against King's two tries and Davis's conversion for the visitors. Even with the strong wind in their favour in the second half, Kidwelly could not change events.

Treorchydo not harbour any special hopes for the cup competition. Any success serves only to feed confidence for their league matches. To stay in the first division can be their only objective.

More tries like the one Morgan scored in the second half after the searing break by Paul Jones from his own half might go some way to helping them to achieve their objective. But it really will be a long struggle.

Cup draw, page 33

Melrose sit tight to take league title

MELROSE won their fifth Scottish League title in the past seven years on Saturday thanks to Stirling County failing to win by the 43-point margin they needed to retain their crown. They managed to beat Heriot's FP only 34-14 at Goldenacre.

IRISH TRAINING SQUAD: Backs: J Staples (Harlequins). C O'Shea (London Irish), S Geoghegan (Bath), R Wallace (Garryowen), N Woods (Blackrock College), J Bell (Northampton), K McQuillan (Ballynahinch), M Field (Malone), S McCahill (Sunday's Well), P Burke (Cork Constitution), E Elwood (Lansdowne), C Saverimutto (Sale), N Hogan (Terenure College), A Rolland (Blackrock College). Forwards: N Popplewell (Newcastle), H Hurley (Old Wesley), P Wallace (Blackrock College), P Clohessy (Young Munster), T Kingston (Dolphin), A Clarke (Northampton), S Byrne (Blackrock College), G Fulcher (Cork Constitution), N Francis (Old Belvedere), D Tweed (Ballymena), J Davidson (Dungannon), D Corkery (Terenure College), D McBride (Malone), E Halvey (Shannon), P Johns (Dungannon), V Costello (St Mary's College)

Hertfordshire fall at last

East Midlands Colts 13
Hertfordshire Colts 8

BY BARRY TROWBRIDGE

WHAT should have been a memorable finale to the domestic competitive Colts season — the Sun Alliance County Championship final — set the standard for what developed into an instantly forgettable afternoon at Twickenham. Like the main event, it struggled to reach mediocrity.

The match should also have been the last hurrah for the under 19s of Hertfordshire, who have enjoyed success after success since they first played representative rugby together as under 14s, but form deserted them and they were outplayed far more than the score would suggest.

Hertfordshire amassed 302 points in reaching the final, during which time Alex Williamson, Adrian Twyning and Josh Lewsey contributed 26 tries. But no-nonsense tackling by the East Midlands backs, allied to a more mobile and united pack, ensured that they were shackled on Saturday.

Joe Worsley, the Hertfordshire No 8, who had played for England in the under-21 international against Scotland last Tuesday and is building a reputation at Wasps as a player for the future, was too often way ahead of his colleagues, in thought and deed, and found himself isolated as the East Midlands defence closed him down.

The East Midlands, who were formed into a unit only in July, had the confidence to play Matt Oliver, who has scored seven tries for Bedford this season, at outside centre. They benefited considerably from his experience.

SCORERS: East Midlands: Try: Oliver Conversion: Blowers Penalty goals: Blowers (2). Hertfordshire: Try: Storey Penalty goal: Twyning.

EAST MIDLANDS: P Brunsden (Bedford); B Cowen (Northampton), M Oliver (Bedford), S Osman (Bedford), G Withnall (Bedford); D Blowers (Northampton), A Brown (Bedford); K Todd (Northampton), R Matthews (Bedford), M Burgess (Bedford), S Walters (Northampton), G Waters (Northampton), M Birkle (Northampton), R Butler (Bedford), S Hepher (Northampton)

HERTFORDSHIRE: A Twyning (Harpenden), I Taylor (Harpenden), J Storey (Harlequins/Loughborough Univ), B Barnes (Wasps), A Williamson (Harpenden); J Lewsey (Fullerians/Wasps), D Etches (Birmingham Univ), S Carter (Hertford/Saracens), C Codo (O Elizabethans/Harlequins), C Cano (Datchworth/Wasps), M Bridge (Welwyn/Wasps), S Tyler (Welwyn/Leicester), B Rowlands (O Elizabethans/Saracens), A Church (Hertford), J Worsley (Welwyn/Wasps) Twyning replaced by R O'Neill (Harlequins/Loughborough Univ, 41min), Tyler replaced by A Hall (Welwyn, 70); A Meehan (Bishop's Stortford) temporary replacement for Bridge.

Referee: C White (Gloucester).

Gifford planning twin assault

By Robert Wright

THE supporting cast for the King George VI Tripleprint Chase at Kempton Park on Boxing Day took shape over the weekend, with confirmation that Josh Gifford intends to saddle Brief Gale and Bradbury Star.

Brief Gale, who showed much improved form when beating Harcon by nine lengths in the Sun Alliance Chase at Cheltenham in March, has yet to run this term. "I had hoped to get a run into the mare before now, but she's had a couple of niggling setbacks," Gifford explained. "She will run provided the ground is good or softer."

Bradbury Star, beaten a head by Barton Bank in a memorable finish to the King George two years ago, was below par on unsuitably heavy ground in the Rehearsal Chase at Chepstow earlier this month but he, too, will take his chance unless the heavens open this week.

Kim Bailey has yet to decide whether to let his King George entry, Book Of Music, take his chance. An impressive novice chase winner at Ascot on his only start last season, Book Of Music has several other options on Boxing Day, including the Rowland Meyrick Chase at Wetherby.

Bailey also remains undecided as to the next target of his Cheltenham Gold Cup winner, Master Oats. He is still waiting on the results of tests taken after the gelding was pulled up behind Grange Brake and Bradbury Star in the Rehearsal Chase, but will send Master Oats for either the Coral Welsh National at Chepstow next Wednesday or the Ericsson Chase at Leopardstown.

Weekend betting news on the Welsh National concerned Lo Stregone, whose odds were trimmed to 11-2 from 7-1 by the sponsors after the form of his recent Wetherby defeat of Unguided Missile was boosted by the latter's game success in the Betterware Cup at Ascot on Saturday.


ED BYRNE

Unguided Missile, far side, pecked on landing after the last but fought back to deny Rough Quest at Ascot on Saturday

Richard Dunwoody has yet to secure a ride in the King George, but must nonetheless be delighted with his decision to turn freelance this season. After landing a brilliant four-timer at Sandown 16 days ago, his winning ride on Unguided Missile gave further evidence that he remains the best of his profession.

Few jockeys would have survived Unguided Missile's blunder at the fourth last, which caused the saddle to slip. Fewer still would have had the strength and determination to pick the horse's nose up off the floor after the last, before collaring Rough Quest in the dying strides for a neck success.

Nicky Richards, son of the winning Greystoke trainer, Gordon, summed it up succinctly: "All credit to the horse, but Richard was absolutely brilliant."

While Dunwoody is picking off the major prizes, his likely successor as champion jockey, Tony McCoy, also paraded his skills at Ascot, taking his score to 93 for the season with a double on Call Equiname and Pridwell.

The victory of Pridwell over Champion Hurdle fancy Mysilv left the latter's trainer, Charlie Egerton, at a loss. "I had her blood-tested two days ago and she was fine," a bemused Egerton said. "She was not blowing unduly hard after the race, and was not distressed. I doubt whether she'll go for the Christmas Hurdle at Kempton now."

Moving goalposts would help resurrect Derby

The prestige of the Derby, already suffering as a result of ill-conceived management decisions, has been dented yet again.

Because England's opening match against Switzerland in the European football championship is being played on the same day, the start of the 1996 Vodafone Derby has been brought forward to 2.30, before the Wembley kick-off in order to maximise television coverage. In other words, to avoid the race being shown on the screens during the half-time interval.

At the same time, Channel 4 has dictated that a start after the final whistle would be impossible owing to the proximity of the omnibus edition of *Brookside*. Unbelievable? Of course it is. Here we have what was once the greatest horse race in the world being kicked into touch in order to accommodate out-of-season soccer and a television soap opera.

Yet the idea until this year would have been unthinkable. Such undignified expediency would never have been necessary had the Epsom executive not stubbornly insisted on experimenting with a Saturday fixture, which manifestly failed to attract the hoped-for return of outsize crowds to the Downs for the 1995 renewal.

Nevertheless, although there is a school of thought which regards the decline of the Derby as terminal, anyone with the good of racing at heart must hope that sufficient steps can be taken to restore it.

Whatever criticism is levelled at Epsom as a course, the Derby still provides a searching test of a three-year-old thoroughbred; and whatever is said about its prestige

JACK WATERMAN



Racing commentary

in the face of competition from other international races, it still lacks nothing as a spectacle.

The problem is how to get the crowds back to watch that spectacle, and, more importantly, to restore the race to its position as the centrepiece of a memorable day.

In 1848, Lord George Bentinck proposed a motion in the House of Commons that MPs should not sit on Derby Day, as that is recognised as a holiday in the metropolis. In reply, the Prime Minister, Lord John Russell, said: "As it seems the practice to look upon tomorrow as a national fete, I have acquiesced to the motion."

Is there any reason why, restored to its traditional Wednesday, Derby Day should not be so again and, furthermore, officially be made a public holiday to replace the Bank Holiday which takes place at present only a few days beforehand?

Such a move would bring great benefits to Epsom, not least in reinstating the Derby again to a place of prominence and pride in the national consciousness and, following that, an impetus in swelling the crowds.

The renewed Wednesday fixture alone would bring other advantages. The Derby would once again be blessed with full exposure in the press, instead of, as in 1995, competing for space with not only Saturday's overcrowded sports programme but also Sunday's cards as well.

The Epsom executive, meanwhile, would have the task of vigorously promoting Derby Day and trimming high admission charges to Bank Holiday levels that the ordinary racegoer could afford.

In these ways there is every chance that we could yet have a 'national fete' on our hands again.

EDINBURGH

THUNDERER

12.15 Blaze Away
12.45 Killimor Lad
1.15 Hilltown Blues
1.45 Shaarid
2.15 Tallywagger
2.45 Doxford Hut
3.15 Adamatic

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM (FIRM IN PLACES) SIS

12.15 BARRACKS ENTRY MAIDEN HURDLE (£2,220: 2m 4f) (15 runners)

1	0-	ANOTHER ISLAY 261 (V Shields) C Parker 4-11-5	D Parker	–
2	00/P4	ARCTICALDI 21 (Panther Racing Ltd) Mrs A Swinbank 5-11-5	M Foster	76
3	3	BLAZE AWAY 30 (F Melton) I Balding 4-11-5	J Osborne	89
4	3	DAWN ROCK 94F (B) (Punters Haven Racing Club) R McKellar 4-11-5	G Cahill (7)	–
5	0	JABAROOT 21 (J Slattery) D Nolan 4-11-5	L Wyer	–
6	00P0-25	JONAEM 39 (Mrs E Slack) Mrs E Slack 5-11-5	F Perratt (3)	81
7		JUBRAN 91F (Mrs E Scallon) J Dodds 5-11-5	R Guest	–
8	4	KASIRAMA 25 (B & K Associates) M Hammond 4-11-5	R Burns (7)	78
9		MELODY DANCER 143F (J Andrews) J Andrews 4-11-5	A Wait (7)	–
10	0	SECONDS AWAY 65 (J Goldie) J Goldie 4-11-5	G Lee (3)	–
11	00	YOUNG STEVEN 16 (A Thurgood) W Kemp 4-11-5	S McDougall	–
12	253353	BLOOMING SPRING 14 (Mrs J McGregor) Mrs D Thomson 6-11-0	L O'Hara	76
13	44	POLLY CINDERS 31 (J Goodfellow) Mrs J Goodfellow 4-11-0	B Storey	–
14	00	SHEER GIFT 26 (A Preston) J Barker 6-11-0	M Moloney	–
15	PF0	TNI MY WAY 14 (Exors of late R Lamb) D Lamb 5-11-0	A Manners (7)	–

BETTING: 1-2 Blaze Away, 9-2 Kasirama, 8-1 Jonaem, 12-1 Arcticaldi, 14-1 Jabaroot, 16-1 others

1994: ROSINA MAE 5-11-3 R Garrity (4-9 fav) Mrs J Ramsden 15 ran

FORM FOCUS

ARCTICALDI 17l 4th of 18 to Cyrrcrak, Cyrano in amateur riders' maiden hurdle at Kelso (2m 6l 110yd, good to soft) with BLOOMING SPRING 3l 5th, BLAZE AWAY 9¼l 3rd of 10 to Strong Promise in a novice hurdle at Ascot (3m 110yd, good). DAWN ROCK 45l 3rd of 4 to Tony's Feeling in a novice hurdle at Perth (3m 110yd, good to firm) JABAROOT 42l 7th of 11 to Penny A Day in a novice hurdle at Kelso (2m 110yd, good to soft) with YOUNG STEVEN 4l 8th, KASIRAMA 18l 4th of 14 to Lansborough in a novice hurdle at Carlisle(2m 4l 110yd, good). BLOOMING SPRING 9¼l 3rd of 8 to Blue Charm in a novices' handicap hurdle at Edinburgh (2m 4l, good to firm). POLLY CINDERS 29l 4th of 5 to La Bella Villa in a National Hunt Flat race at Aintree (2m 110yd, good to firm)
Selection: BLAZE AWAY

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
N Tinkler	9	27	33.3	Mr C Bonner	4	11	36.4
Mrs M Reveley	13	48	27.1	Mr S Swiers	3	10	30.0
G Moore	8	32	25.0	J Callaghan	8	43	18.6
C Parker	8	37	21.6	D Parker	4	24	16.7
M Hammond	20	95	21.1	B Storey	17	108	15.7

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Edinburgh: 12.15 Dawn Rock. 1.15 Kalko. 2.45 Ah Jim Lad. Lingfield Park: 12.30 Charterhouse Xpres, Latzio

12.45 BATHING COACH NOVICES CHASE (£2,684: 3m) (5 runners)

1	3221PF	KILLIMOR LAD 14 (F) (C Jenkins) P Monteith 8-11-7	A Dobbin	87
2	00P-423	HIS WAY 41 (F,6,S) (Mrs M Humble) J Johnson 6-11-0	J Osborne	89
3	3-F0U4	MORE JOY 12 (Mrs L Marshall) Mrs L Marshall 7-11-0	Mr K Whelan (5)	83
4	22-34PF	PAGLIACCIO 14 (A Stewart) M Hammond 7-11-0	P Niven	–
5	P1F-	SUNNYSIDE UP 247P (S) (J Brockbank) J Brockbank 6-11-0	T Reed	–

BETTING: 5-4 His Way, 7-2 Killimor Lad, 4-1 Pagliaccio, 7-1 Sunnyside Up, 8-1 More Joy

1994: NO CORRESPONDING RACE

FORM FOCUS

KILLIMOR LAD best recent effort finished alone in 3-runner novice chase at Newcastle (2m 110yd, firm) HIS WAY 21¾l 3rd of 6 to Highland Poacher in novice chase at Sedgefield (2m 1f, good to firm). MORE JOY tailed off 4th of 8 to Russian Castle in maiden chase at Sedgefield (3m 3l, good)

PAGLIACCIO best recent effort 35161 4th of 6 to Hill The Canvas in amateur riders' handicap hurdle at Kelso (2m 6l 110yd, firm) SUNNYSIDE UP beat Give It Lady head in 13-runner point-to-point at Lockerbie (soft) penultimate start.
Selection: KILLIMOR LAD

1.15 SEA HOLE SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,233: 2m) (12 runners)

1	031430-	LIABILITY ORDER 446 (D,F,S) (A Preston) J Berard 6-12-0	M Moloney	96
2	256223	BRACKENTHWAITE 10 (J Slatcher) L Lloyd-James 5-11-7	E Callaghan (5)	95
3	20440-0	KALKO 37 (B,D,G,S) (J Goldie) J Goldie 6-11-4	F Perratt (3)	89
4	156545	RUNRIG 19 (G) (D Callaghan) Miss L Perratt 5-10-12	A Dobbin	86
5	05000-0	THARSIS 172 (B,C,F,G) (W Smith) W Smith 10-10-4	S Taylor (7)	96
6	/000/05	HILLTOWN BLUES 26 (D,G,S) (Mrs L Dyer) T Dyer 6-10-2	J Callaghan	89
7	2303-44	FUNNY ROSE 154F (P Monteith) P Monteith 5-10-1	G Cahill (7)	90
8	46-0	OVALWORLD 21 (C Williams) D Whillans 4-10-0	B Harding (3)	87
9	0/000-P4	VAN DER GRASS 19 (F,Gracs) P Calver 6-10-0	L Wyer	93
10	0P-00	MISS GREENYARDS 14 (J Blacklock) J Haldane 4-10-0	F Leahy (3)	–
11	00/0P-P	PERCY PIT 12 (N Alexander) N Alexander 6-10-0	B Storey	–
12	PPP/0	CARZARA 14 (Mrs I Forrest) B Mactaggart 8-10-0	G Lee (3)	–

Long handicap: Van Der Grass 9-13, Miss Greenyards 9-7, Percy Pit 9-0, Carzara 9-0

BETTING: 11-4 Brackenthwaite, 4-1 Van Der Grass, 9-2 Runrig, 6-1 Kalko, 8-1 Hilltown Blues, 10-1 Funny Rose, 12-1 Tharsis, 14-1 others

1994: MARCO-PIERRE 5-11-5 A Thornton (11-4) J Barclay 9 ran

FORM FOCUS

BRACKENTHWAITE 7¾l 3rd of 11 to Mr Monarty in conditional jockeys' novices' handicap hurdle at Doncaster (3m 110yd, good to firm) Previously head 2nd of 13 to Kimberley Boy in a selling handicap hurdle at Catterick (2m, good to firm) with VAN DER GRASS (1lb better off) 3¼l 4th and RUNRIG (3lb better off) 2½l 5th THARSIS tailed off 7th of 14 to Bright Sapphire in a selling handicap hurdle at Uttoxeter (2m 4l 110yd, good to firm) HILLTOWN BLUES 23¼ 5th of 10 to Russel's Dream in a handicap hurdle at Hexham (3m, good) FUNNY ROSE 16¾l 4th of 10 to Hostile Act in a novices' handicap hurdle at Southwell (2m, good to firm) MISS GREENYARDS tailed off 8th of 9 to Bolansy Girl in a maiden hurdle over course and distance (good to firm) with CARZARA 9l last.
Selection: HILLTOWN BLUES

☐ Tony McCoy has given up his attempt to break the record for the fastest century of winners in a season. Peter Scudamore holds the record, having reached 100 winners on December 20 in 1988 and 1989. McCoy — on 93 winners — abandoned plans to fly to Edinburgh today and so give himself a chance of setting a new mark at Southwell tomorrow.

GUIDE TO OUR IN-LINE RACECARD

101 113143 GOOD TIMES 13 (BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 12-0 ..... B West (7) 88

Racecard number. Six-figure form (F — fell P — pulled up U — unseated rider. B — brought down S — slipped up. R — refused D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing. F if flat. (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood. E — Eyeshield C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Private Handicapper's rating.

1.45 TABLE HANDICAP CHASE (£3,404: 2m 4f) (6 runners)

1	43F161	SWORD BEACH 44 (D,F,G,S) (Mrs S Mason) Mrs M Reveley 11-11-13	P Niven	96
2	3223P-3	WAIT YOU THERE 12 (D,F,G,S) (H Alexander) H Alexander 10-11-10	Mr S Swiers	95
3	31316-F	PURITAN 14 (CD,F,G,S) (J Parlc) N Tinkler 6-11-8	A S Smith	95
4	12F-103	SHAARID 17 (F,G) (P Oldfield) I Balding 7-11-5	J Osborne	96
5	21F-045	RAPID MOVER 14 (B,C,F,G) (Mrs J McFadyen-Murray) D Nolan 8-10-10	L Wyer	97
6	S22F1U	WILLIE SPARKLE 12 (D,F,G,S) (T Hardie) Mrs S Bradburne 9-10-0	B Storey	89

Long handicap: Willie Sparkle 9-7

BETTING: 7-4 Sword Beach, 2-1 Shaarid, 9-2 Wait You There, 5-1 Puritan, 14-1 Rapid Mover, Willie Sparkle

1994: SIR PETER LELY 7-11-6 Mr C Bonner (5-2) M Hammond 7 ran

FORM FOCUS

SWORD BEACH beat De Jordaan ½l in a 3-runner handicap chase at Newcastle (2m 4l, firm). WAIT YOU THERE 11½l 3rd of 7 to Sarsale Mo in a handicap chase at Sedgefield (2m 1f, good). PURITAN beat Magellan Bay 7l to a 19-runner novice handicap chase at Doncaster (2m 3l 110yd, good) in February.
SHAARID, three times a winner over fences last term, 17l 3rd of 10 to Highlown Cavalier in a conditional jockeys' novice handicap hurdle at Exeter (2m 2l, good to soft) RAPID MOVER 11½l 5th of 6 to Chantry Beath in a conditional jockeys' handicap hurdle there (2m, good to firm) WILLIE SPARKLE beat Live And Let Live 20l in a 6-runner conditional jockeys' handicap chase at Hexham (3m 4l 110yd, good to firm) on penultimate start.
Selection: SWORD BEACH

2.15 GAS HANDICAP HURDLE (£3,188: 3m) (5 runners)

1	2F0P34	TALLYWAGGER 21 (D,BF,F,G) (J Featherstone) G Moore 8-11-10	J Callaghan	95
2	0P0/F00	SHANNON GLEN 21 (B,F,S) (M Smith) M Smith 9-11-10	G Harker	80
3	363-613	TIGHTER BUDGET 39 (F,S) (A Slack) Mrs E Slack 8-11-10	F Perratt (3)	94
4	012U11	MASTER OF THE ROCK 28 (V,D,F,G,S) (Mrs S Adams) J Mackie 6-10-13	E Husband (3)	89
5	3545ZF-	WHITE DIAMOND 233 (D,F,S) (P Russell) Miss L Russell 7-10-11	A Thornton	97

BETTING: 5-4 Tallywagger, 5-2 Master Of The Rock, 9-2 Tighter Budget, 6-1 Shannon Glen, 7-1 White Diamond.

1994: TRUMP 5-9-9 Mr D Parker (5-1) C Parker 9 ran

FORM FOCUS

TALLYWAGGER 11 4th of 12 to Village Reindeer in a handicap hurdle at Kelso (2m 6l 110yd, good to soft) TIGHTER BUDGET 7l 3rd of 11 to Dancing Dove in a handicap hurdle at Kelso (2m 2f, good). Previously, made all to beat Old Habits 31½l in Kelso handicap (2m 6l 100yd, good to firm) MASTER OF THE ROCK beat Exemplar 20l in a 3-runner handicap hurdle at Catterick (2m 1l 110yd, good to firm) WHITE DIAMOND short-head 2nd of 10 to Exemplar in a handicap hurdle at Carlisle (2m 4l 110yd, good to firm) on penultimate start
Selection: MASTER OF THE ROCK

2.45 HOLE ACROSS AMATEUR RIDERS' MAIDEN CHASE (£2,386: 2m 4f) (9 runners)

1	3/PPPPP-	AH JIM LAD 272 (B,G) (A McPherson) D Nolan 11-11-10	A McPherson (7)	80
2	465322	DOXFORD HUT 12 (F) (W McKeown) W McKeown 11-11-10	K Whelan (5)	89
3	0000-	FINE TUNE 235 (T Hardie) Mrs S Bradburne 5-11-10	Miss P Robson (7)	–
4	5445/02	GRAND SCENERY 14 (Scottish Chasing Partners) J Johnston 7-11-10	Miss P Jones (7)	81
5	0/62P4	LIVE AND LET LIVE 19 (Mrs C Greig) Miss L Russell 11-11-10	C Storey (7)	77
6	0	MERRY ROSE 21 (Braw Partnership) M Hammond 5-11-10	C Bonner (5)	–
7	30	MOON CASTLE 26 (Mrs V Thompson) V Thompson 7-11-10	M Thompson (5)	87
8	0	TIMES LEADER 21 (Mrs D Hall) P Calver 6-11-10	Miss K Hall (7)	–
9	PP05-PU	MY GONNY 14 (W Harvey) J Dodds 6-11-5	A Robson (7)	–

BETTING: 7-4 Doxford Hut, 2-1 Grand Scenery, 6-1 Live And Let Live, Moon Castle, 12-1 Times Leader, 14-1 Fine Tune, 20-1 others.

1995: NO CORRESPONDING RACE

FORM FOCUS

DOXFORD HUT 6l 2nd of 11 to Jake Box Billy in a handicap chase at Sedgefield (2m 5l, good). GRAND SCENERY 30l 2nd of 10 to Rocket Ron in a novice chase over course and distance (good to firm) with MY GONNY unseated rider seven out. LIVE AND LET LIVE tailed off 49l of 6 to Flash of Realm in a handicap chase at Catterick (2m, good to firm), MOON CASTLE 14l 3rd of 7 to Oakley in a novice chase at Sedgefield (2m 5l, good), penultimate start. TIMES LEADER 56l 9th of 18 to Eymrak Cyrano in an amateur riders' maiden hurdle at Kelso (2m 6l 110yd, good to soft) with MERRY ROSE 8l 10th.
Selection: DOXFORD HUT

3.15 SHORT HOLE STANDARD OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (£1,446: 2m) (7 runners)

1	1-11	DIRECT ROUTE 28 (F) (F Nash) J Johnson 4-12-4	Mr C Bonner (5)	–
2	2-41	ADAMATIC 14 (F) (G Adam) R Allan 4-11-11	S Melrose (7)	–
3		JAYDALAY (M Nicholson) Miss L Russell 5-11-4	Mr J-O McGurgan (7)	–
4	2-	LORD FORTUNE 287 (T Hemmings) M Hammond 5-11-4	P Niven	–
5	8-3	MAGUIRE 14 (D Leech) G Moore 5-11-4	N Bentley	–
6	0-0	OVER STATED 37 (J Stephenson) P Chesebrough 5-11-4	R Supple	–
7		PINNY (Mrs M Meek) Mrs M Reveley 4-10-13	G Lee (3)	–

BETTING: 5-2 Direct Route, 3-1 Adamatic, 7-2 Lord Fortune, 5-1 Pinny, 8-1 Maguire, 14-1 Jaydalay, 25-1 Over Stated.

1995: NO CORRESPONDING RACE

FORM FOCUS

DIRECT ROUTE beat Silverdale Lad 2¼l in a 6-runner National Hunt Flat race at Catterick (2m, good to firm) ADAMATIC beat Duke Of Perth 6l in an 8-runner National Hunt Flat race over course and distance (good to firm) with MAGUIRE (7lb better off) 7l 3rd. LORD FORTUNE 1l 2nd of 15 to Planxty Gale in National Hunt Flat race over course and distance (good) OVER STATED well beaten 16¾l of 18 to Peace Lord in Market Rasen National Hunt Flat race (1m 5f 110yd, good to soft) on seasonal debut)
Selection: DIRECT ROUTE

☐ High Padre completed a treble in the St Helens Handicap Chase at Haydock on Saturday, ridden by stand-in jockey Finbarr Leahy. Mark Dwyer had been due to ride the 7-4 favourite but he took a heavy fall on Newlands-General an hour earlier. Dwyer said: "Nothing is broken and I may come back on Wednesday or Thursday, or leave it to Boxing Day."

MIDLAND

NOTICE TO CUSTOMERS

NEW INTEREST RATES

New Business Rates effective from Monday 18th December 1995		NET %	Gross CAR %
Money Master	Up to £5,000	2.22	3.00
	£5,000+	2.41	3.25
	£25,000+	2.74	3.70
	£100,000+	2.88	3.90
	£250,000+	3.03	4.10
Premium Business Account	£5,000+	3.30	4.50
	£25,000+	3.66	5.00
	£100,000+	3.84	5.25
	£250,000+	4.02	5.50
Clients Premium Deposit Account	£25,000+	3.15	4.25
	£100,000+	3.52	4.75
Treasurer Account	Up to £2,000	0.93	1.25
	£2,000+	1.30	1.75
	£10,000+	2.76	3.75

The Listening Bank

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SATURDAY'S RESULTS

Ascot

Going: good (good to firm in places)

12.15 (2m 3f 110yd ch) 1. Senor El Betrutti (G Bradley, 66-1); 2. Challenger Du Luc (7-2 jt-fav), 3. Cumbrian Challenge (7-2 jt-fav) 8 ran 6l, 3l Mrs S Nock. Tote: £61.30; £7.30, £1.70, £1.70 DF £100.70 CSF £254.35

12.50 (2m 110yd hdle) 1. Call Equiname (A P McCoy, 7-4 fav), 2. Speedwell Prince (6-1), 3. Strong Promise (7-2). 10 ran NR. shd P Nicholls. Tote: £2.60, £1.20, £1.90, £1.60 DF £6.20 Trio: £5.00 CSF: £12.80

1.20 (3m 1f 110yd hdle) 1. Silver Wedge (J Osborne, 7-1), 2. Putty Road (5-2 fav), 3. Top Spin (33-1). 11 ran NR: Gillan Cove 4l, Sl O Sherwood. Tote: £9.50, £2.20, £1.50, £3.90 DF £12.50. Trio: £88.60 CSF: £24.75

1.55 (3m 110yd ch) 1. Unguided Missile (R Dunwoody, 7-2 jt-fav: Richard Evans's nap), 2. Rough Quest (7-2 jt-fav), 3. Unholy Alliance (25-1). Couldn't Be Better 7-2 jt-fav (f) 9 ran NRs, dist: 6l Richards: Tote: £3.50; £1.10, £2.10, £3.70 DF: £9.90 Trio: £65.40 CSF: £14.96 Tricast: £232.40

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: SHAARID
(1.45 Edinburgh)
Next best: Blaze Away
(12.15 Edinburgh)
Richard Evans landed a 10-1 double on Saturday. He napped Ascot's big-race winner, Unguided Missile (7-2), and coupled it with Livio (6-4). His other winners included Celibate (15-2), who was also selected by Thunderer

2.30 (2m ch) 1. Front Street (J Osborne, 11-8 fav), 2. Martin's Lamp (11-4), 3. Thumbs Up (8-1). 8 ran 4l, 10l S Sherwood. Tote: £2.30; £1.30, £1.40, £2.40 DF: £3.40 CSF: £5.57. Tricast: £19.03.

3.00 (2m 110yd hdle) 1. Pridwell (A P McCoy, 6-11); 2. Mysilv (1-2 fav), 3. Kadastrof (20-1). 8 ran 4l, 13l, M Pipe. Tote: £6.80, £1.40, £1.20, £2.80. DF: £2.90. CSF: £9.14

Haydock Park

12.10 1. Domappel (11-10 tav, Newmarket Correspondent's nap and Private Handicapper's top rating), 2. Daily Boy (11-2) 3. Nordic Breeze (11-1) 20 ran

12.40 1. Sovereigns Parade (5-1) 2. Paddy's Return (11-10 tav); 3. Gospel Song (20-1). 20 ran.

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1.10 1. Master Boston (6-1); 2. Valiant Warrior (11-2), 3. Strong Deal (10-1). Strong Medicine 9-2 fav. 12 ran.

1.40 1. Celibate (15-2); 2. Kalak (7-1); 3. Fair And Fancy (10-1); 4. Square York (16-1) Albermine 5-1 fav 17 ran NR Golden Hello

2.10 1. High Padre (7-4 fav), 2. Mr Flanagan (8-1); 3. Silver Stick (4-1) 6 ran NR: Into The Red

2.40 1. Simply Dashing (7-4 fav); 2. Lansborough (11-4), 3. Monyman (20-1) 17 ran NR Hanging Grove

3.10 1. Spanish Light (2-1), 2. King Lucifer (4-7 fav), 3. Wise Advice (10-1) 4 ran.

3.40 1. Swanblister (25-1), 2. Polosanto (4-1); 3. Kaladross (7-1) Glamangitz 7-2 fav. 20 ran

Jackpot: £7,100.00 (0.10 winning tickets. Pool of £4,173.00 carried forward to Lingfield Park today).

Catterick Bridge

12.25 1. Brancher (9-2), 2. Whatdidyousay (4-1 fav); 3, Emperor's Magic (6-1) 13 ran NR Deep Fair

12.55 1. Netherby Said (11-2), 2. Full Shilling (5-1); 3. Dark Midnight (14-1) Emerald Charm 7-2 fav. 10 ran

1.25 1. Livio (6-4 fav); 2. Coming Alive (20-1), 3. Domino (14-1) 14 ran

1.55 1. Newnall Prince (100-30), 2. Strong Approach (2-1 fav); 3. Mas Mij (100-30) 5 ran.

2.25 1. Marco Magnifico (12-1), 2. Master Orbe House (100-30 jt-fav), 3. Ingletesman (9-2). Iveep Batting 100-30 jt-fav. 8 ran

2.55 1. Blaee (9-2) 2. Russian Castle (7-2), 3. Mullingar (14-1) Twin States 9-4 fav 8 ran.

3.25 1. Chime King (9-2), 2. Radical Reform (14-1), 3. Balhomoch (9-4 fav) 13 ran

Uttoxeter

12.00 1. Backgammon (4-1), 2. Meant To Be (5-1), 3. Wren Warbler (8-1) Mr Rundle 2-1 fav 15 ran NR Mahla

12.30 1. Serious (3-1 fav), 2. Weenaby (25-1) 3. Moonlight As (10-1) 16 ran.

1.00 1. Jacob's Wife (5-6 fav); 2. High Low (3-1) 3. Sense Of Value (12-1) 4 ran

1.30 1. Golden Nugget (10-1), 2. St Kitts (16-1); 3. Now Who Knows (8-1), Romalito 7-2 fav. 14 ran NR: Fox On The Run, Megamunch.

2.05 1. East Houston (10-1), 2. Fox Chapel (10-1); 3, Rivage Bleu (11-8 fav) 8 ran NR Garrison Commander, Lord Gyllene

2.35 1. Bayrouge (3-1) 2. Nahrl (5-2 jt-fav); 3, Micyan (5-1) Golden Arrow 5-2 jt-fav 6 ran NR Hearts Are Wild, Teen Joy

3.05 1. Matt Reid (12-1) 2 Boll Weevil (5-1), 3 Veleda II (7-2) Mreenlch 3-1 fav 7 ran. NR Sparrow Hall

3.35 1. Potter's Gale (13-8 fav); 2. Docent Penny (5-2) 3. Belle Baroness (66-1) 14 ran NR Joy For Life, Lucia Forte

JUMP LEADERS

TRAINERS

	1st	2nd	3rd	Runs where unplaced	Level stakes
M Pipe	85	60	33	1	-7.41
P Hobbs	46	26	22	2	+10.31
Mrs M Reveley	39	26	18	1	-5.42
N Tinkler-Davies	39	30	20	15	-23.19

JOCKEYS

	1st	2nd	3rd	Losing rides unplaced	Level stakes
A P McCoy	93	60	47	0	+61.56
D Bridgwater	71	49	33	16	-20.19
P Niven	42	28	20	15	-43.67
R Dunwoody	40	28	36	2	-43.96

LINGFIELD PARK

THUNDERER

12.00 Wahem. 12.30 Lady Eclat. 1.00 Manful. 1.30 Red Rusty. 2.00 Speedy Classic. 2.30 COLOSSE (nap). 3.00 Note Of Caution. 3.30 Master Millfield.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 1.00 MANFUL.

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 12.00 Wahem. 1.30 RED RUSTY (nap). 3.30 Tatika.

GOING: STANDARD SIS
DRAW: 5F-1M, LOW NUMBERS BEST

12.00 ATROPOS HANDICAP (Div I: £2,439: 1m 2f) (13 runners)

101	(2)	4450	ZACAROON 27 (D,G) J Fitch-Heyes 4-9-13	D Wright (3)	89
102	(6)	1660	ABSOLUTE RULER 9 (D,B) J L Harris 4-9-5	R Hughes	–
103	(1)	0000	NORTH ESK 19 (F,G) C Dwyer 6-9-5	C Dwyer	83
104	(11)	2000	CIA GEORGY 34 (C,F,G,S) Mrs N Macauley 4-8-4	S Sanders	94
105	(6)	0-61	WATCH ME GO 104 (CD,F,G) B Jones 6-9-3	M Wigham	90
106	(7)	3000	BAKERS DAUGHTER 16 (G) J Arnold 3-9-3	J Quinn	91
107	(5)	1030	TOTAL RADN 19 (B,F) R Ingram 3-9-2	W Woods	98
108	(13)	5065	PINE ESSENCE 27 (D) J Eyre 4-9-1	R Lappin	98
109	(10)	500-	TUDOR FLIGHT 86J A Newcombe 4-8-9	D Griffiths (5)	95
110	(12)	0002	SWYNFORD FLYER 23 (F) J A Harris 6-8-6	C Adamson (5)	95
111	(9)	0022	WAHEM 27 (F) C Brittain 5-8-5	J F Egan	95
112	(4)	000	SHOODAH 19 P Hayward 4-8-3	P Fessey (5)	–
113	(3)	0000	SMOCKING 19 J Pearce 5-7-10	S Bardwell	85

5-2 Swynford Flyer, 3-1 Wahem, 4-1 Bakers Daughter, 6-1 Zacaroon, 10-1 others.

12.30 WITCH OF ENDOR CLAIMING STAKES (2-Y-O: £2,739: 5f) (9)

201	(9)	0313	CHARTERHOUSE XPRES 17 (B,D,S) M McCormack 9-2	A Culhane	96
202	(1)	1060	CHEMCAST 65 (D,F) D Nicholls 9-2	Alex Greaves	88
203	(3)	500	ROWLANDSONS STUD 18 G L Moore 8-6	S Whitworth	92
204	(5)	2545	GI LA HIGH 17 (D,G) J Berry 8-3	A McGlone	98
205	(6)	6420	GRACIOUS GRETCLO 6 C Hill 8-3	J Quinn	88
206	(2)	0613	LADY ECLAT 6 (V,BF,G) J Glover 8-1	D Wright (3)	89
207	(4)	0000	LATZIO 18 (B) E Penna 7-11	G Bardwell	82
208	(8)	0000	CARWYN'S CHOICE 70 P Clarke 7-9	N Adams	–
209	(7)	560	DOUBLE OR BUST 124 A Newcombe 7-9	P Fessey (5)	81

15-8 Lady Eclat, 2-1 Charterhouse Xpres, 7-2 Chemcast, Gi La High, 10-1 others.

1.00 HOTSPUR LIMITED STAKES (Amateurs £2,802: 1m 4f) (13)

301	(8)	6014	STALLED 6 (C,D,F,G,S) P Walwyn 5-10-13	Mardh

Rob Hughes, football correspondent, on the players who will illuminate the English stage next summer

Liberos free to entertain

Now that the draw is made, will the committee-men kindly leave the stage to the real entertainers, the players? Patrick Kluivert's handsome brace of goals in the 231st and final European championship eliminator at Anfield last week puts his name firmly among the elite of those from whom so much will be expected in June. He has spent 12 of his 19 years growing accustomed to his body, to a frame still growing at 6ft 2in, to using the tools that are a footballer's best friend with a comfort and a grace that is beyond most Englishmen.

He joins the obvious names: Alessandro Del Piero, of Italy; Davor Suker, of Croatia, who has scored 16 goals in 15 internationals; Hristo Stoichkov, of Bulgaria, and Gheorghe Hagi, of Romania, who will be trying to repeat the form they showed in the 1994 World Cup; and the Laudrup brothers, who, fitness permitting, will be in harness for Denmark.

However, it is too easy to ally with the recognised stars or starlets. Spain have not even yet bloodied Raul Gonzales, the remarkable teenager who is attracting bids of £7 million from Roma to his destitute owners, Real Madrid.

There is another sphere, coming from the players themselves and from club and national team coaches abroad, that liberates great talent from defence. Fittingly, this trend is led by Germany, where, 30 years ago, Franz Beckenbauer created the *libero*.

The game comes full circle and more with Matthias Sammer, the new Germany *libero*. Red of hair, tall and lean, he exercises even more freedom than Beckenbauer did: he bridged the gap from East to West Germany, coming from Dresden, and in some recent internationals has glided forward to pepper the opponents' goal with more shots even than Jürgen Klinsmann.

That is the trick: Klinsmann captains the side, captures the eye and the attention, and defenders like Sammer steal forward to capitalise on the space. The trend is extended in the former Eastern bloc. Russia have not one but two *liberos*. Viktor Onopko and Yuri Nikiforov. The pair bemused Blackburn Rovers in the European Cup Champions' League while sharing the defence, and the freedom, in the Spartak Moscow team. Onopko has since been transferred to Oviedo, in Spain, for what looks like a snip at £1.5 million.

But his game, Sammer's game, is in every team that plays with imagination. Croatia use Slaven Bilic as the free defender and, whenever you look at Croatian youth teams, you see a young man replicating the idea, coming straight from central defence on long, striding diagonal runs that at times take them beyond the forwards. Miordrag Belodedici is a master of such runs for Romania.

When you talk to coaches overseas, they speak not of set positions but of football *players*. Marcelo Lippi, the pragmatic coach of Juventus, in Italy, rarely gives plaudits to individuals. He makes an exception of Paulo Sousa, of Portugal. "Sousa settled into Italian football as though he was born to it," Lippi enthused. "There is no doubt he has a key part in the success of Juventus. Technically, tactically and physically, he is an outstanding midfield player."

Along with Rui Costa, Oceano and Figo, Sousa is one of four Portuguese who interchange with an ease that comes naturally to them. It depends on instinct but also on habits ingrained in boyhood, and they would instantly be at the heart of England's or Scotland's European championship quest. They are a quartet in concert, gifted players who operated together in Portugal's 1989 and 1991 world youth championship-winning sides.

Holland, of course, build the same understanding at the Amsterdam kindergarten of Ajax. Kluivert takes headlines for winning important European games, but Clarence Seedorf is a young mastermind, a player you could not pigeon-hole in one position, a teenager whose instant influence at Sampdoria obliged even the club captain, Roberto Mancini, to adapt his game to the Dutchman's style. And no one is sure that Seedorf is a better player than Edgar Davids, of Ajax.

If natural talent abounds in Portugal and Holland, both Spain and France are opting for something built on intelligence and trusted physical maturity. The French, recently leaving out Ginola and Cantona, have developed a dynamic and crunching midfield quality in Christian Karembeu and Marcel Desailly, both employed in Italy, and leave the goalscoring to be inspired by Youri Djorkaeff, the new sensation of Paris Saint-Germain.

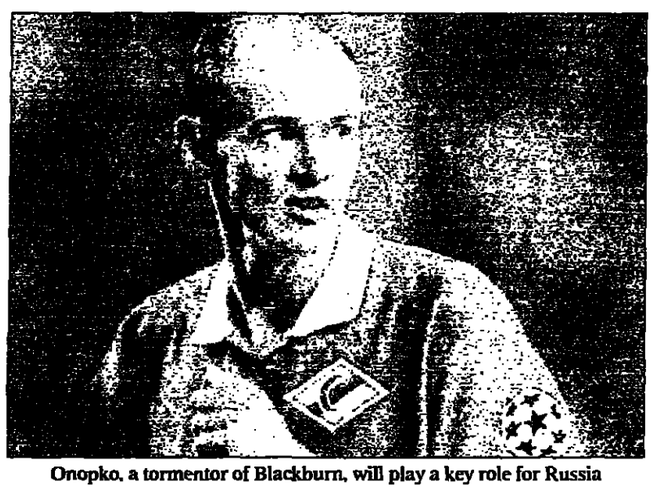
And Spain? Watch José Luis Caminero. A reject of Real Madrid in his youth, at 28 he is now driving Atlético to the top. He has proved at World Cup level that he can cope with, indeed thrive on, the demands of seven games in three weeks. Including the final, that is what will be required in June.

What one cannot say, because of the demands of club matches and the vagaries of form, is that any individual will even be in the England team next summer. But one can hope. Perhaps an English youngster, Robbie Fowler, will emerge to claim a place among the entertainers.





Spain will be seeking inspiration from the indefatigable Caminero



Onopko, a tormentor of Blackburn, will play a key role for Russia



Sammer, left, gives Germany an extra dimension, while Kluivert strikes fear into Holland's opponents

Quick on the draw

These days, a week never goes by without there being a draw for something or other. Yesterday, we had the draw for the European football championship, which is certainly an event to enjoy. At least, the football will be fun.

But six months before the event, we apparently need to have this colossal feast of anticipation. I am sure we will all be frightfully wrapped up in the event when it finally comes along, but right now, in sporting, as well as in newspaper terms, it is light years distant.

Trouble is, once the event is finally upon us, we will all be told endlessly about the light it sheds on the World Cup of 1998. We had the draw for that just the other day. Thus does sport wish its life away.

Old athletes live in the past, in the days of their golden youth. But sport's selling force always live in the future, a dream world of glorious and impossible excitement. Always, the best thing ever is just around the corner. Between the idealised past and the idealised future, there seems no room at all for the turbulent present, the only time zone worth living in. The one in which football is actually played.

Thus yesterday was yet another flight from real sport, another descent to the world of suits, pop groups and television personalities — and remember, this is a television broadcast after all, a floor manager told the assembled audience, awed by the perfect gloriousness of his own medium.



Venables: twinkling

It had been a day of handshakes between suits, men of influence trying to buttonhole men of still greater influence across the vastness of the International Convention Centre deep in the heart of the loveliness that is Birmingham.

Sponsors, sporting power brokers, media men. Plastic bags with free hats for those that wanted free hats. Down the motorway a piece, there was actual football *actually going on* at Anfield, this very afternoon, but in Birmingham we were already in flaming June.

So there was Tel — it was Sunday so he could not possibly have been in court — showing that he can still smile and twinkle. He had been talking with the managers and the coaches of all the other teams, and, apparently, all 16 of them thought they had a tough draw.

England begin against Switzerland, which sounds like the recipe for the dullest and most disappointing game at Wembley since England played Uruguay in 1966. Ah, but that was the year, children, in which England won the World Cup, which was then also a tournament of 16 teams.

In many terms — money, television, marketing, sponsorship, security — Euro 96 is a far bigger event. In other, somewhat more important sporting terms, it is not. But it is still plenty big enough, and should be one to savour. I plan to start savouring it round about the end of May.

But alas, by that time, the hard sell will be on for Wimbledon, which follows hard upon. And by then they will be selling us the Olympic Games, which come a few weeks after that, and during the Olympics, no doubt they will be selling us the domestic football season. Or something.

However, for three brief spurts of 90 minutes each, English football will be shoehorned into the present as the team takes on Switzerland, then Scotland, then Holland. And if we are not completely fed up with the whole damn thing before it starts — well, we should get some seriously decent sport. But I'm in no hurry. I wonder how they got on at Anfield.

SIMON BARNES

Eyes of the world on one continent

THE 1996 European championship will be the largest and most significant sports event to be staged in Britain since the 1966 World Cup. By almost every criterion, the 31-match tournament will dwarf any world championship or international competition held in these islands since Bobby Moore raised the Jules Rimet Trophy at Wembley 30 years before.

With 16 countries participating for the first time in the 36-year history of the event, more than 5,000 media personnel will cover Euro '96. The event will be televised by 130 countries across the world. Football is not just Britain and Europe's most popular sport, it is the world's.

There is particular global interest in this competition, because the overall standard in Europe is higher than in any other continent. At the 1994 World Cup, seven of the eight quarter-finalists were European.

Financially, the competition is already more profitable than the previous record for any British sports event — the 1994 and 1995 Wimbledon championships, both of which made £27.9 million.

The television rights for Euro '96 have been sold to the European Broadcasting Union for £44 million, and the primary sponsorship and television rights for the rest of the world have gone for £24.4 million.

Ticket sales have already topped 400,000 in Britain alone, bringing in £13 million. Glen Kirton, the tournament director, said that the sale of seats for England's three group games at Wembley is now "approaching" the allocation for the host country.

Under a "loyalty" system to buy a ticket for a quarter-final, an applicant must have purchased at least one seat for each of the three group games. Once individuals have applied for quarter-final tickets, they can apply for the semi-final. Only if they have a ticket for a semi-final, can they apply for a seat for the final.

Kirton believes that some tickets from England's opponents may be returned to the Football Association in the next few months. However, foreign sales will only really begin today, now that the countries know where they will be playing.

Each country is allocated a maximum of 7,000 tickets, although at least five, Germany, Italy, Holland, Scotland and Denmark would like more. All tickets are being sold through the national governing bodies or their official agents.

THERE is likely to be some flexibility on the numbers allocated to individual countries, although this will be guided by the requirements of safety at the grounds.

The vast majority of the money earned from television rights, sponsorship and ticket sales goes straight to Uefa, the European governing body, which then distributes the money to its member nations.

The FA, which is running the tournament for Uefa, will spend £15 million on staging the competition and, provided the stadiums are, on average, 80 per cent full, then it will begin making a profit. If all the seats are sold, then it will make a surplus of £2 million.

Kirton said: "If there is a conflict between the FA making a profit and staging a good tournament, then the priority is a good tournament. We now have a number of fine grounds, as a result of the Taylor Report, and also sound administration. We do not need to tell, say, Manchester United, how to to stage a football match. They know." However, if the FA goes into the red, then Uefa will write off any deficit from its profits from the tournament.

The important thing for the FA, and England, is to hold an event that is a success, and is seen as a success. For three weeks next June, the focus of the sporting world will be on England. It could give the stimulus and confidence for this country to host the World Cup and Olympic Games in the 21st century.

JOHN GOODBODY

THE TIMES

Book your tickets for Euro 96

The Times is offering readers in England the chance to apply for tickets for the 1996 European Football Championship, the largest sporting event to be held in the United Kingdom for over 30 years, by completing the form below. Unfortunately, due to Uefa rules, this offer is only open to readers who are resident in England and residents of Northern Ireland, the Republic of Ireland, Scotland and Wales should apply to their respective Football Associations for tickets.

HOW TO APPLY

See the details of the Euro 96 draw on page 21 and complete the coupon, below, indicating the number of tickets you require for each game under the appropriate price column. All tickets are allocated on a first-come, first-served basis on the following loyalty basis:

(a) You can apply for up to four tickets for any of the 24 individual group matches.

(b) If you apply for tickets for at least three group matches you can also apply for up to four tickets for one of the quarter final matches. However, you cannot apply for a greater number of tickets for the quarter finals than for group matches. Eg, if you request two tickets for three group matches you can only apply for a maximum of two tickets for the quarter finals.

(c) If you apply for three group matches and a quarter final you can apply for up to four tickets for one of the semi-final matches. Again, you can't request more tickets than you do for group matches.

(d) Tickets for the final can only be requested if you have followed (a), (b) and (c) above. You can apply for a maximum of two tickets as follows: if you apply for four tickets for a semi-final game you can apply for two tickets for the final. If three or two semi-final tickets are applied for you can only request one final ticket. If you only apply for one semi-final ticket you cannot apply for a ticket to the final.

HOW TO PAY

There are three ways to pay: by cheque, credit or debit card or by three instalments using the direct debit method.

- To apply for your tickets by credit or debit card call the hotline number 099 099 1996. Lines are open to 8pm this week and during office hours from December 27.
- Cheques should be made payable to Euro 96 Account. If you indicate on the form that you are willing to accept tickets in a higher or lower price bracket, to avoid tickets being sold out, decide on the maximum amount you are willing to pay and write 'Not to Exceed £...' just above the word PAY on your cheque.
- If choosing the direct payment method ensure that that part of the form is fully completed. Again, you can limit the amount you wish to pay in the appropriate box. Your account will be debited in three monthly instalments.

Then sign and date the form to agree to abide by the terms and conditions of the championship, copies of which will be sent to all applicants.

THE TIMES EXCLUSIVE EURO 96 APPLICATION FORM

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3	X					
4						
5	X					
6	X					
7	X					
8	X	X	X	X		
9	X					
10	X					
11	X	X				
12	X	X	X	X		
13	X	X				
14	X					
15	X					
16	X					
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21	X					
22	X	X	X	X		
23	X					
24						
25	X	X				
26	X					
27						
28	X			X		
29	X	X				
30	X					
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Post to: EURO 96, PO Box 1996, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffs ST5 1LE or return to your local Midland Bank branch in a sealed envelope marked Euro 96.

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Hat-trick fails to gloss over unacceptable behaviour on and off Villa Park pitch

Milosevic focused in unedifying spectacle



Michael Henderson finds little to celebrate in Aston Villa's 4-1 victory over Coventry City

The Ship of Fools lies in the harbour, rigged and ready for the high seas, but there is still room in the hold for stragglers. Aboard then, Glenn Hoddle, and enjoy the voyage. There will be time to consider your plaint, that Europeans are "scared stiff" of English football ("woo! woo!") and time, should you reconsider, to repent.

How can anybody sound of mind speak such guff? Hoddle's phrase formed the basis of a risible newspaper story on Saturday, that European footballers quaked in their boots before engaging the English. We really are a pitiful bunch, happy to deceive ourselves with these assertions of cod patriotism, as though the whole bang-shoot was some kind of virility test.

If the FA Carling Premiership table tells the truth, Aston Villa are the fourth-best team in the land, to which one is tempted to ponder: what sort of land do we inhabit? Here is a side of strictly limited ability and appeal, which helped itself to victory over hapless opponents in a game wretchedly short of the expertise one is entitled to expect of professionals. Coventry, who first played at Villa Park in 1936, have still to win there.

In their defence, though it is really none, they were a man light. Kevin Richardson, once a Villa player, was sent off seven minutes before half-time after committing a second bookable offence. Commendably, Paul Alcock allowed play to continue in Villa's favour until the ball went dead before he produced the red card. Well played, ref!

Richardson, booked for an early foul on Draper, had followed up with a hack at Johnson, whose enterprising goal had given Villa a twelfth-minute lead. Predictably, he was astonished at the decision, and his team-mates added their two penn'orth before the game resumed. What babies they are.

It is difficult to assess how the behaviour of players affects the mood of the crowd. In rugby (both codes), it does not, because the players are more mature and the spectators more sympathetic to the nature of the game. Football, on the whole, attracts less discerning characters and supporters tend to get worked up a lot about things that matter only a little, when they are not behaving in an unseemly and often disgusting fashion.

Instance: when Yorke, the Villa striker, was taken from the field on a stretcher after a clash of heads with Busst, a significant minority of Coventry supporters jeered him on his way with obscene hand gestures and foul language. Instance: after Richardson's dismissal, the same supporters stood as one to acclaim their player in a bizarre display of what politicians call "unity". They were united, all right, in complete and utter ignorance. These things happen so frequently at football grounds that nobody finds such antics peculiar, never mind repugnant. This is how people behave, and if you don't like it, you're a cissy.

In these decorous days, when a player narrowly fails to keep a ball in play, he is treated to an unwarranted display of hatred. If one wanted to find an example of all that is most coarse and mean-spirited about the modern English character, in vocabulary and conduct, visit a football ground; any football ground.

One-up at half-time, Villa added three goals through Milosevic, the Serbian centre forward who had not previously scored at home. A better finisher would have had six, but who's counting? Draper and Johnson supplied decent crosses for simple headers, and Busst's mistake enabled him to complete a comfy hat-trick. He has scored five of his eight goals this season against Coventry and, like every other striker in England, he would love to play them every week.

Ron Atkinson continues to spend, most recently on Whelan, the former Leeds United forward, who made his debut in midfield. The Coventry manager would do better to keep the millions in the bank and protect his team's goal with oil drums and a big alsatian. They have now conceded 24 goals away from Highfield Road, jointly the worst away record in all four divisions.

Dull though it was, the day was not without charm. The match programme carried a photograph of Doug Ellis, the Villa chairman, collecting a local award for his "services to sport". We can all drink to that.

ASTON VILLA (5-3-2): M Bosnich (sub: N Spink, 46min) — G Charles, P McGrath (sub: R Scimeca, 67), U Ehiogu, G Southgate, A Wright — M Draper, I Taylor, T Johnson — D Yorke (sub: A Townsend, 34), S Milosevic.
COVENTRY CITY (5-3-2): J Filan — P Telfer, R Shaw, D Busst, P Williams, M Hall — K Richardson, N Whelan, J Salako (sub: D Rennie, 72) — P Ndlovu (sub: A Pickering, 69), D Dublin.
Referee: P Alcock.



Milosevic, who had not previously scored at home, celebrates his third goal against Coventry City on Saturday. Photograph: Hugh Routledge

Waddle's licence to thrill too much for Leeds

Sheffield Wednesday 6
Leeds United 2

By Keith Pike

MUCH more of this and the FA Carling Premiership is going to have to start taking Sheffield Wednesday seriously. Not as prospective champions — a team needs a defence as well as an attack to win the title, and they hardly bother with such niceties at Hillsborough — but in terms of entertainment value. The scoreline says it all: Wednesday are *seriously* entertaining.

Of course, they are not the only club to adopt a positive approach. Newcastle United, Arsenal and Everton play with two wingers, Aston Villa have fielded three forwards on their travels, and nobody would call Manchester United boring. Wednesday have just taken the theme to a crazily higher plane.

David Pleat's cunning plan? Simplicity itself: a back four, a "holding" player (the cannily recruited Steve Nicol) in front of them, and five forwards scattered almost randomly in the other half, with licence to harmonise, extemporise and eventually terrorise the opposition. Oh, and the full backs overlap as if their Christmas bonuses depend on it. For their rivals, when it gels as it did on Saturday, this is indeed the formation from hell.

Yet if Plan A, Pleat's permutation of attackers, is bold, it would not work without Plan B, the personnel. He has produced positive, pleasant-to-the-eye sides wherever he has managed, but for years now the "stop Waddle, stop Wednesday" brigade had sniggered triumphantly. Stop Waddle now and there are two strikers turned creators to contend with in Whittingham and the sumptuously talented Belgian, Degryse, never mind that Bright and Hirst hover in anticipation ahead of them, each having scored five goals in their past five games.

Poor old Leeds. Not only could they not hold Waddle, who had a foot in four of Wednesday's goals, but they could do little else right either. They tried, switching from 4-4-2 to 3-5-2 and eventually 4-3-3, but each time they thought that they had got it right — bang, another goal would go in: three in the first 25 minutes, two in five after the hour, and one for luck just before the end. They could have had six themselves, so vulnerable were Wednesday to the counter-attack, but if Wednesday *had* needed a couple more, they surely would have got them.

Of the ones that were required, the first, third and fifth were memorable. The opener, inside four minutes, set the tone for the afternoon. Hirst muscled through two challenges, Nicol's simple pass set Briscoe scampering down the left wing in support, and a measured cross was converted by Degryse: strength and subtlety combining to sweep Leeds aside.

The third featured Waddle's inventiveness, a free kick chipped over the wall for Degryse to volley; the fifth a gasp-inducing turn by Degryse past Speed, culminating in Hirst's thunderous finish. Brolin's first for Leeds, who scored at 3-0 and 5-1 down, reflected their comparatively cumbersome style, Nicol's goalline clearance rebounding back past him off the prostrate Swede's body.

Wednesday's past five league games have now produced 29 goals (16 for, 13 against) and Degryse, for one, is finding the Premiership "tremendously exciting because every team goes out thinking it can win every game and trying to do it" (Blackburn Rovers next month should disillusion him). Pleat, rightly, gets the credit. "He told me when he signed me he wants to play continental football," Degryse said. "It was difficult in the beginning, but now we all know what he wants."

Howard Wilkinson, the Leeds manager, blamed himself for selecting the "exhausted" Kelly and Yeboah. Pleat, suitably thrilled, admitted that Wednesday had "got the breaks". Such an adventurous approach deserves them.

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (4-1-5): K Pressman — I Nolan, P Atherton, D Walker, L Briscoe — S Nicol — M Degryse, M Bright, C Waddle, D Hirst, G Whittingham (sub: G Hyde, 46min).
LEEDS UNITED (4-4-2): J Lukic — G Kelly (sub: R Wallace, 46), D Wetherall, R Jobson, A Dongo — A Couzens, C Fairclough, G McAllister, G Speed — A Yeboah (sub: B Deane, 65), T Brolin.
Referee: R Hart

Full results and league tables ... Page 30

Newcastle take comfort at home in Beresford's absence



Ferdinand: winning goal

Newcastle United 1
Everton 0

By Peter Ball

THE examinations of Newcastle United's championship credentials are starting to come thick and fast. The trip next week to Old Trafford will be the acid test but, at home at least, they are overcoming every challenge triumphantly.

Two weeks ago, against a physical Leeds team, they came from a goal behind to win. On Saturday, after Beresford had been sent off with almost an hour remaining, the ten men found strength in adversity. By the close they had fully merited the victory that maintained their 100 per cent record at St James' Park.

"People will see the result and think, 'that was tight', but that doesn't tell the true story," Kevin Keegan, the Newcastle manager, said. "It was a great result. There was no room on the bus for any passengers today.

"As a manager you look at our home record of played eight, won eight, and you know it isn't going to be easy going through the season with that record, and when you see the sending-off so early, you think 'this could be it'.

"But we reorganised a bit. We decided with the players we've got to keep attacking, we had a slight adjustment, leaving Les [Ferdinand] up and letting David [Ginola] roam, and the other eight just had to work their socks off. But you couldn't ask for more commitment or effort — or thought, because they were clever the way they sorted out their problems."

Yet, until Beresford was sent off for pulling down Kanchelskis as he sped past him onto Amokachi's pass with a clear run to goal, Everton had been slightly unfortunate to be a goal behind, but Stuart and Amokachi spurned their chances. Newcastle managed one moment of championship quality, Ferdinand taking Beardsley's pass to beat Southall from a tight angle for his 21st, and his team's fiftieth, goal of the season.

Five minutes after Beresford's departure, Gillespie was removed to allow Albert to come on at left back, and Keegan's fears were soon laid to rest. Srnicek made one outstanding save, and two good ones, but the better chances came at the other end, with Beardsley and Lee going close and only a post denying Ginola.

"The more we pushed on, the more dangerous they were on the break," Joe Royle, the Everton manager, said. Fear of a second sending-off persuaded Royle to make one substitution at the interval, taking off Parkinson, who had been booked, and sending on Horne, who collected the second yellow card in his stead.

It was Royle's second substitution, however, that dominated the final half-hour as Ferguson came on to polarise opinions. Although Ferguson's height caused problems, the substitution may have been misjudged. Jackson went off, Everton playing three at the back; but Kanchelskis, their most dangerous attacker, now found himself going back to protect Watson from the danger of Ginola's pace.

But nobody, it seems, knows what to do with Ferguson. On Saturday, the Newcastle crowd treated him to chants of "You're supposed to be in jail," which were good-humoured enough, but only after greeting his appearance with a storm of booing, which was as uncharitable as Everton's attempts to defend the indefensible are obtuse.

"He's a threat, he's a good player, but he's lacking match sharpness," Royle said. "But we — you, the press — must be careful it's not seen as a one-man club or a one-man team, the Duncan Ferguson sideshow. Just let him get on with being a player now."

Indeed. But it might help if Everton, directors and players, stopped pretending that their errant Scot was whiter than white.

NEWCASTLE UNITED (4-4-2): P Srnicek — W Barton, D Peacock, S Howey, J Beresford — K Gillespie (sub: P Albert, 40min), R Lee, L Clark, D Ginola — P Beardsley, L Ferdinand
EVERTON (4-1-4-1): N Southall — M Jackson (sub: D Ferguson, 57), D Watson, C Short, D Unsworth — J Parkinson (sub: B Horne, 45) — A Kanchelskis, G Stuart, J Ebbrell, A Limpar — D Amokachi
Referee: P Durkin

Hammam outfoxed in tale of the tape

Wimbledon 0
Tottenham Hotspur 1

By Nick Szczepanik

WIMBLEDON, understandably, were feeling hard-done-by after seeing Tottenham Hotspur plunder a late goal that condemned them to their first defeat in four games, when, with a little luck, they might have been celebrating their first win in 14.

Even so, most of those at the post-match press conference were mildly taken aback to find Sam Hammam, the Wimbledon owner, hauling in a video camera. Hammam insisted the videotape provided incontravertible evidence that his team had had a legitimate goal, a Mick Harford header, disallowed by David Elleray, the referee, and been denied a penalty for a handball by Gary Mabbutt, the Tottenham captain, well before Ruel Fox's 85th-minute winning goal.

Joe Kinnear, the Wimbledon manager, who has been no stranger to controversy on the subject of refereeing, feels that the time has come to make such material available to officials during the course of matches in order to avoid arguments afterwards.

"With modern technology, sooner or later we'll have to have a 'third eye', because referees aren't good enough," he said. "They could destroy my career. Managers get sacked — but what happens to the referees?

"We deserved something and I find it very hard to accept: when our pressure led to a genuine penalty, we didn't get it. In the second half, I felt we would win. We picked up everything in midfield and we had enough opportunities to punish them."

He had a point. After Heald's early point-blank save from Sheringham's header, Wimbledon looked more likely winners. Fox's right wing runs notwithstanding. In the second half especially, Walker seemed to be under continual pressure, although he was only beaten when a brave save at Ekoku's feet led to an almighty goalmouth scramble. Holdsworth's deflected shot finally being cleared off the line by Calderwood.

Fox's late score, however, was a goal that would have deserved to win any match, even if this was hardly a game that deserved such a goal. Sheringham, always a threat, volleyed Armstrong's cross back across goal for Fox, in a central position for once, to beat Heald with a flying header.

Tottenham's win, their fifth successive game without conceding a goal, takes them to third place in the FA Carling Premiership. "It wasn't the greatest performance," Gerry Francis, their manager, said, "but it wasn't that long ago we were worried about getting out of the bottom four."

WIMBLEDON (4-3-3): F Heald — K Cunningham, S Perry, A Reeves, A Kimble — J Goodman (sub: V Jones, 85min), R Earle, D Leonhardsen — C Holdsworth, M Harford (sub: M Hoyle, 72), E Ekoku
TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (4-4-2): I Walker — S Campbell (sub: S Slade, 86), C Calderwood, G Mabbutt, S Wilson — R Fox, J Dozzell (sub: J Edinburgh, 56), D Howells, R Fitzgerald — C Armstrong, E Sheringham
Referee: D Elleray

Le Saux proves casualty of another sour encounter

Blackburn Rovers 1
Middlesbrough 0

By David Maddock

WHEN two intelligent young footballers consider their fate this morning, they will no doubt ruefully conclude that the FA Carling Premiership is no place for the faint-hearted.

Graeme Le Saux's season is almost certainly over after his leg was snapped as he fell awkwardly in a challenge with the Brazilian, Juninho. The injury was accidental, no doubt. But the play before the incident, in the fiftieth minute, was full of intent, most of it ugly. As Juninho reflects on this game, he may feel as depressed as Le Saux.

The Middlesbrough forward was a target for much of the unsavoury nonsense that suggested the unhappy ending eventually witnessed. A symphony of elbows and lunges, underscored by a malevolent crowd.

As Juninho tried to comfort the stricken Le Saux, his ankle at right angles to its usual position, Middlesbrough's supporters struck up a dreadful tirade against the Blackburn Rovers player. Fjortoft, their own striker, displayed his disgust with an angry gesture.

No wonder, then, that the Brazilian was moved afterwards to discuss the physical excesses of the English game with a heavy heart. It is not a problem, he said, despite his slight build, but it is wearisome. "I am prepared for it, but every game I play in England three players against me have been booked. This game was tougher than that, the toughest so far," he said.

Bryan Robson, the Middlesbrough manager, believes Juninho will adapt. "He is slight, but he is quick and intelligent and he will survive," he said. "This game was difficult, but give him another couple of months and we'll see him at his very best."

The sickening injury to Le Saux had a sobering effect on the match, which had offered little in terms of entertainment anyway. Only the predictable contribution of Shearer warmed the spirit on a day that would have kept Sir Ranulph Fiennes indoors.

His goal, a laser-guided shot from the edge of the box after 41 minutes, settled the game and two further efforts from him provided just about the only other goal-mouth action. His consistency for Blackburn, 23 goals so far this season, also raised a familiar refrain from the visiting supporters who questioned his ability to repeat the trick for England.

Even allowing for Shearer's lack of support on national duty, it is something of a puzzle. Robson, in his capacity this time as an England coach, offered continuing support if not a plausible explanation.

"For England he's just in that sort of run where he's not scoring," he said. "But he remains a threat, a real danger around the box, and when he does get one then I'm sure he will probably score in the next ten games."

At least he has an immediate England future, which is more than the unfortunate Le Saux. Robson's concern for him expressed the gravity of the injury. "I only hope he won't be out for too long, but it looks very serious," he said.

A bulletin, issued from the hospital where the player was recovering yesterday, revealed that Le Saux has broken the fibula in his right leg, dislocated the ankle and appears to have ruptured tendons in the ankle. Early estimates suggest that he will not play again for four months, making him an unlikely starter for the European championship.



Le Saux: horrific injury

BLACKBURN ROVERS (4-4-2): T Flowers — J Kenna, C Hendry, H Berg, G Le Saux (sub: G Fenton, 54min) — S Ripley (sub: C Coleman, 46), T Sherwood, L Bohinen, D Batty — A Shearer, M Newell
MIDDLESBROUGH (5-2-2-1): G Walch — N Cox, S Vickers, N Pearson, D Whyte, C Fleming — P Stamp, C Liddle — N Barmby, Juninho — J A Fjortoft (sub: J Hendrie, 60).
Referee: P Danson

Hateley highlights Bolton's problems

Queens Park Rangers .. 2
Bolton Wanderers 1

By David Powell

MARK HATELEY may not be fit, but at least he is playing and making a nuisance of himself, setting up both of Queens Park Rangers' goals on Saturday and hitting the bar with a header. His contribution underlined how urgently Bolton Wanderers need to sign a forward.

Bolton have lost all nine of their away games in the FA Carling Premiership and, with only one point out of the last 18, they are adrift at the bottom. Their only fit forwards are de Freitas and McGinlay, who have scored one goal between them in their past six league games.

Roy McFarland, the Bolton manager, has increased his bid of £750,000 for Nathan Blake, the Sheffield United striker, and is awaiting a response. McFarland said the attack needed "fresh impetus", and he hopes that Blake will be a Bolton player this week.

There is time yet for Bolton to save themselves, and they are not playing poorly. If this is the bottom of the Premiership, it should worry those clubs chasing promotion from the first division that a team can play to such a standard most weeks and yet be so far from safety. "We had enough possession and we felt we contributed enough but, at times, we just became a bit too cavalier," McFarland said. He was annoyed, not without good reason, that when Bardsley pulled back Curcic early on, the referee denied them a "blatant penalty".

Bolton were on top, but lacked a finish until Rangers took the lead after 40 minutes, Hateley measuring a pass for Osborn to score his first goal for them. Four defenders watched as Sellars drove in an equaliser three minutes later, but no sooner had McDonald retrieved his own error to clear off the line from de Freitas in the 74th minute than Hateley headed into the path of Impey, who scored with a sweetly-struck shot. Two minutes later, Bergsson was sent off for clattering into Gallen.

Thus Rangers won for the first time in ten Premiership matches, since their 1-0 success away to Bolton. Ray Wilkins, the Rangers manager, had said he would settle for "a scrappy 1-0". He was perhaps unkind in toasting "a scrappy 2-1". The match may have been untidy at times but it was adventurous, too, and neither of these relegation-threatened teams showed any sign of wanting a white flag.

Wilkins was pleased with the "tremendous application" Hateley had shown since arriving in September, despite a succession of injuries. "We are seeing Mark in bits and bobs, but he has been good for everybody," Wilkins said. On Saturday, especially.

QUEENS PARK RANGERS (4-4-2): J Sommer — D Bardsley, S Yates, A McDonald, T Challis (sub: K Ready, 85min) — S Osborn (sub: K Gallen, 87), S Barker, I Holloway, A Impey — T Sinclair, M Hateley
BOLTON WANDERERS (3-5-2): K Branegan — C Fairclough, G Bergsson, G Targett — S Green, A Todd (sub: S McAnespie, 84), S Curcic, S Sellars, J Philips — F de Freitas, J McGinlay
Referee: S Lodge

Cole fails to glow in Anfield crucible

Fowler fires both barrels to bring down United

Liverpool 2
Manchester United..... 0

BY DAVID MILLER

IT REQUIRED the substitution of Andy Cole early in the second half to breathe life into Manchester United yesterday, yet they could not avert defeat by a newly strident Liverpool. Two rapier goals by Robbie Fowler sent a shudder through United's championship challenge and raised hopes, however distant, for Liverpool themselves, who are now 11 points behind Newcastle United.

Alex Ferguson, United's manager, for all his dexterity in winning earlier titles, is now faced with the reality of a mammoth blunder. Cole, bought for £7 million is a failure. In 53 minutes he had contributed nothing bar a header that almost hit the corner flag. So Ferguson sent out Scholes to play in midfield, switched Giggs to a central attacking role alongside Cantona, and shuffled the formation from 4-4-2 to 3-5-2. Belatedly, United became a force.

From then until the finish, the match ran on a razor's edge, United repeatedly threatening to draw level as Giggs and Cantona, prompted by McClair, stretched Liverpool's rearguard with their deft footwork. Yet all the while Liverpool, one up from Fowler's spectacular free kick 40 second before half-time, were counter-attacking in a frenzy that might have brought at least three goals more. Fowler's second, three minutes from time, deepened United's wound.

I have been listening to the Anfield roar for many years, but seldom was it as thunderous as yesterday. On a dank December afternoon the ceaseless, echoing torrent of noise pounded the ears like a train entering a tunnel. Spiteful verbal abuse was poured on Cantona. When the tension on the field mounted, with the successive booking of Fowler — no one understood why — McClair, Sharpe and then McManaman around the hour, it briefly seemed as if Cantona's renowned short fuse might reach the gunpowder cannister. The moment happily passed.

The match, like so many, was won as much in midfield as by Fowler's dagger blows, and indeed was almost rescued in midfield following United's reorganisation. England's prospects in the European championship may be unpromising, yet here were two of our leading clubs reaching a level of sustained skill, at hurtling speed, that had a 40,000 crowd transfixed.

Liverpool may have been through a lean spell, losing four of their last seven matches. Yesterday, however, Michael Thomas played with fine authority, controlling the first half hour, McManaman covered more ground than even Colin Bell once did for Manchester City, and his cross-field linking with McAteer on the right flank repeatedly had United backpedalling in alarm.

The Kop was also severe in its critical abuse of Schmeichel, United's goalkeeper. Returning after missing two matches, Schmeichel made two superb saves from Collymore midway through the first half. Collymore, at last beginning to make an impact for his new club, was excitingly dangerous throughout in partnership with Fowler.

United's bold policy of playing both Giggs and another midfield player wide on the right has always courted danger should their central midfield players be overrun. McClair and Sharpe were initially swamped and it was the removal of Cole, ironically, which enabled United to solve a pressing tactical problem.

Thirty five of the first 45 minutes must have been fought in United's half of the field. McAteer regularly got the better of Irwin on the right, his crosses generating wave upon wave of expectation on the steep bank behind Schmeichel. The goalkeeper, however, was equal to the occasion and the best Collymore could offer.

At last, the citadel was breached. Sharpe brought down Barnes on the edge of the area and Fowler's free kick, from 23 yards, flew with such accuracy into the top left corner of the net that Schmeichel remained motionless, deceived by the flight. The goalkeeper then tried to cover his error by berating his colleagues.

In the second half, although Thomas's influence declined, McManaman remained electric on both flanks. Following the flurry of bookings, he rounded Bruce, and chipped past Schmeichel, only to hit the side netting. United responded with Cantona's rasping drive which James parried, and near the end Giggs was within a foot or two of equalising. Wright scrambling the ball outside a post.

With three minutes left, McManaman accelerated down the left, found Fowler to his right, and the little man made scoring look so simple.

LIVERPOOL (3-5-2): D James — M Wright, J Scales, S Harkness — J McAteer, M Thomas, J Barnes, S McManaman, R Jones — S Collymore, R Fowler.
MANCHESTER UNITED (4-4-2): P Schmeichel — G Neville, D May, S Bruce, D Irwin — D Beckham, B McClair, L Sharpe, Giggs — E Cantona, A Cole (sub: P Scholes, 53min).
Referee: G Poll.

MARK THOMPSON/ALLSPORT



Collymore, who is beginning to make an impact for Liverpool, is closed down by May, left, and Neville

PREMIERSHIP AT A GLANCE

		Played	Points	Goal diff	Recent form
1	Newcastle	18	42	+22	DWDLW
2	Manchester Utd	18	35	+26	WDDDL
3	Tottenham	18	33	+7	WDDWW
4	Aston Villa	18	32	+17	WDDDW
5	Liverpool	18	31	+16	DLDWW
6	Arsenal	18	31	+11	WDDDD
7	Middlesbrough	18	30	+7	LWDWL
8	Notts Forest	16	27	+8	WLDDD
9	Leeds	17	25	-1	WLLDL
10	Chelsea	18	25	-2	WDDWD
11	Blackburn	18	24	+4	WDWLW
12	Everton	18	23	+2	WDDWL
13	West Ham	18	23	-5	DWLLW
14	Sheffield Wed	18	22	-1	LDWDW
15	Southampton	18	17	-11	LWDDL
16	QPR	18	15	-12	LLDLW
17	Manchester City	17	15	-17	DWWWL
18	Wimbledon	18	14	-15	LDDDL
19	Coventry	18	12	-17	LDLWL
20	Bolton	18	9	-18	LLDLL

Weekly change: Up — Stayed the same — Down

Le Tissier fails to find magic touch

West Ham United 2
Southampton 1

BY ALYSON RUDD

FOR 80 minutes of this game, West Ham United dillied and dallied in front of goal as if trying to decide whether they really wanted to score when it was so much more fun passing the ball around in midfield. It was fun to watch, too. West Ham provided examples of the swift, triangular movement that is virtually extinct these days, but slices through the opponents midfield as cleanly as cheese wire.

They could not make much impact in the Southampton 18 yard area, however, and the visitors took the lead, Le Tissier's corner clipping Bishop to beat Miklosko.

Le Tissier had asked to be relieved of the captaincy before the match and his manager, Dave Merrington, had obliged, agreeing that less responsibility on the field might help release the skills Le Tissier has been bottling up for much of this season.

It was like watching a poor magician. Le Tissier tried every trick in his book: lobbing the goalkeeper, the placed shot from 25 yards, ball juggling, deceiving defenders, but only his corner kick and the occasional precise through ball really worked. Genius, as a commodity, is invisible and difficult to find when misplaced.

Still, it seemed Le Tissier had at least won the match but, nine minutes from the end, Slater ran at a by now sluggish Southampton midfield, interchanged passes with Dicks, gave the ball to the excellent Hughes, who crossed for Cottee, who equalised. It was an impressive goal and it unsettled Southampton sufficiently for them to allow West Ham to score again through Dowie, two minutes later.

With seconds of injury time remaining, Le Tissier collected the ball with his back to goal, turned and looped the ball 25 yards towards the top corner of the net. It arced too high. In a split second he could have saved his team a point, won back lost adoration and renewed the clamour for international recognition. Instead, his side was fully punished for two minutes of slackness.

There were not too many cracks on Saturday but, with Le Tissier unable to paper over them, Southampton need to work that much harder.

WEST HAM UNITED (4-4-2): L Miklosko — S Potts, M Rieper, A Martin (sub: T Breacker, 57min), J Dicks — D Williamson, J Moncur (sub: R Slater, 64), I Bishop, M Hughes — A Cottee, I Dowie.
SOUTHAMPTON (4-4-2): D Beasant — J Dodd, R Hall, K Monkou, F Benali — M Oakley (sub: N Maddison, 70), J Magilton (sub: D Hughes, 70), B Venison, S Charlton — M Le Tissier, N Shipperley.
Referee: A Wilkie.



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FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

ARSENAL (0) 1 **CHELSEA** (1) 1
Dixon 88 — Spencer 25
38,295

Arsenal: D Seaman — L Dixon, S Bould, A Adams, N Whiteborn — M Keown, J Jensen (sub: G Helder, 46min) — D Platt, P Merson — J Hartson, I Wright.

Booked: Adams, Bould.

Sent off: Bould (78).

Chelsea: D Khanne — D Petrescu, D Lee, A Myers, M Dubarry, T Phelan (sub: S Clarke, 46) — D Wise, J Spencer (sub: P Furlong, 69), C Burley, E Newton — M Hughes.

Booked: Petrescu, Hughes.

Referee: G Ashby.

ASTON VILLA (1) 4 **COVENTRY** (0) 1
Johnson 12 — Dublin 54
Milosevic 48, 63, 80
38,486

Aston Villa: M Bosnich (sub: N Spink, 46min) — G Charles, P McGrath (sub: R Schmeichel, 67), U Ehiogu, G Southgate, A Wright — M Draper, I Taylor, T Johnson — D Yorke (sub: A Townsend, 34), S Milosevic.

Coventry City: J Filan — P Taller, R Shaw, D Busst, P Williams, M Hall — K Richardson, N Whelan, J Salako (sub: D Rennie, 72) — P Ndlovu (sub: A Pickering, 68), D Dublin.

Booked: Busst, Richardson.

Sent off: Richardson (38).

Referee: P Alcock.

BLACKBURN (1) 1 **MIDDLESBROUGH** (0) 0
Shearer 42 — 27,996

Blackburn Rovers: T Flowers — J Kenna, C Hendry, H Berg, G Le Saux (sub: G Fenton, 54) — S Ripley (sub: C Coleman, 46), T Sherwood, L Bohanen, D Batty — A Shearer, M Newell.

Booked: Sherwood, Hendry.

Middlesbrough: G Walsh — N Cox, S Vickers, N Pearson, D Whyte, C Fleming — P Stamp, C Liddle — N Barmby, Juninho — J-A Ziondoli (sub: J Headrie, 60).

Booked: Whyte, Barmby.

Sent off: Whyte (89).

Referee: P Danson.

NEWCASTLE (1) 1 **EVERTON** (0) 0
Ferdinand 17 — 36,557

Newcastle United: P Srnicek — W Barton, D Peacock, S Howey, J Beresford — K Gillespie (sub: P Albert, 40min), R Lee, L Clark, D Ginola — P Beardsley, L Ferdinand.

Sent off: Beresford (33).

Everton: N Southall — M Jackson (sub: D Ferguson, 57), D Watson, C Short, D Unsworth — J Parkinson (sub: B Horne, 45) — A Kanchelskis, G Stuart, J Ebbrell, A Limpar — D Amokachi.

Booked: Parkinson, Horne.

Referee: P Durkin.

QPR (1) 2 **BOLTON** (1) 1
Osborn 41 — Sellars 44
Impey 75 — 11,456

Queens Park Rangers: J Seaman — D Bardsley, S Yates, A McDonald, T Challis (sub: K Ready, 82min) — S Osborn (sub: K Gallen, 67), S Barker, I Holloway, A Impey — T Sinclair, M Hateley.

Booked: McDonald, Hateley.

Bolton Wanderers: K Branagan — C Fairclough, G Bergsson, G Taggart — S Green, A Todd (sub: S McAllespie, 84), S Curcic, S Sellars, J Phillips — F de Freitas, J McGinlay.

Booked: Fairclough, de Freitas.

Sent off: Bergsson (76).

Referee: S Lodge.

SHEFFIELD WED (3) 6 **LEEDS** (1) 2
Degryse 5, 25 — Brolin 28
Whittingham 18 — Wallace 84
Bright 67 — 24,573
Hirst 72, 86

Sheffield Wednesday: K Pressman — I Nolan, P Atherton, D Walker, L Briscoe — S Nicol — M Degryse, M Bright, C Waddle, D Hirst, G Whittingham (sub: G Hyde, 46min).

Leeds United: J Lukic — G Kelly (sub: R Wallace, 46), D Wetherall, R Jobson, A Dorigo — A Cousins, C Palmer, G McAllister, G Speed — A Yeboah (sub: B Deane, 65), T Brolin.

Referee: R Hart.

WEST HAM (0) 2 **SOUTHAMPTON** (1) 1
Collins 80 — Bishop 22 (og)
Dowie 83 — 18,501

West Ham United: L Miklosko — S Potts, M Reeper, A Martin (sub: T Breaker, 57min), J Dicks — D Williamson, J Moncur (sub: R Slater, 64), I Bishop, M Hughes — A Cottee, I Dowie.

Booked: Moncur, Dowie, Breaker.

Southampton: D Bassant — J Dodd, R Hall, K Monkou, F Benali — M Oakley (sub: N Maddison, 70), J Magilton (sub: D Hughes, 70), B Venison, S Charlton — M Le Tissier, N Shipperley.

Booked: Hall, Monkou, Venison.

Referee: A Wilkie.

WIMBLEDON (0) 0 **TOTTENHAM** (0) 1
16,193 — Fox 85

Wimbledon: P Heald — K Cunningham, C Perry, A Reeves, A Kimble — J Goodman (sub: V Jones, 85min), R Earle, G Leonhardsen — D Holdsworth, M Harford (sub: M Gayle, 72), E Bioku.

Booked: Leonhardsen, Earle, Harford.

Tottenham Hotspur: I Walker — S Campbell (sub: S Slade, 86), C Calderwood, G Mabbutt, C Wilson — R Fox, J Dozzell (sub: J Edinburgh, 55), D Howells, R Rosenthal — C Armstrong, E Sheringham.

Referee: D Elleray.

Yesterday

LIVERPOOL (1) 2 **MANCHESTER UTD** (0) 0
Fowler 45, 87 — 40,546

Liverpool: D James — S Harkness, M Wright, J Scales, R Jones — J McAteer, J Barnes, M Thomas — S McManaman — S Collymore, R Fowler.

Booked: McManaman, Fowler.

Manchester United: P Schmeichel — G Neville, D May, S Bruce, D Irwin — D Beckham, B McClair, L Sharpe, R Giggs — E Cantona, A Cole (sub: P Scholes, 52).

Booked: Sharpe, McClair.

Referee: G Poll.



Dublin: one against Aston Villa

GOALSCORERS

	Lge	Cup	Euro	Total
A Shearer (Blackburn)	17	5	1	23
L Ferdinand (Newcastle)	18	3	0	21
R Fowler (Liverpool)	13	2	0	15
E Sheringham (Tottenham)	11	3	0	14
A Yeboah (Leeds)	9	1	3	13
I Wright (Arsenal)	7	5	0	12
D Dublin (Coventry)	11	0	0	11
M Bright (Sheff Wed)	7	3	0	10
P Scholes (Man Utd)	7	2	1	10
D Yorke (Aston Villa)	7	3	0	10
D Holdsworth (Wimbledon)	6	4	0	10

WORLD CUP OPPONENTS

GROUP two of the qualifying tournament for the 1998 World Cup resembles a minefield for England coach Terry Venables. Old enemies in Italy and Poland will pose the main problems: against Italy, both the full and World Cup qualifying records are even, with England marginally ahead on goal difference (+3); against Poland, England have a clear superiority with just one loss, that in the 1974 World Cup qualifying matches.

Georgia and Moldova are unknown quantities but Wales know to their cost in the Euro '96 qualifiers the peril of underestimating both — Georgia beat the Welsh twice, 5-0 at home and 1-0 away, while Moldova defeated them 3-2 at home but lost 0-1 away.

ITALY	P	W	D	L	For	Agt
Full record	17	6	5	6	25	22
World Cup qualif.	2	1	0	1	2	2
Home	1	1	0	0	2	0
Away	1	0	0	1	0	2

Biggest defeat (all competitions): 0-2 (1973, 1976).
Biggest win: 4-0 (1948).
Euro '96 form: second in group two behind Croatia. Qualifying tournament record: P 10, W 7, D 2, L 1, For 20, Agt 6, Pts 23.

POLAND	P	W	D	L	For	Agt
Full record	11	5	5	1	18	6
World Cup qualif.	6	2	3	1	8	4
Home	3	2	1	0	7	1
Away	3	0	2	1	1	3

Biggest defeat (all competitions): 0-2 (1973).
Biggest win: 3-0 (1986, 1989, 1993).
Euro '96 form: fourth in group one behind Romania, France and Slovakia. Qualifying tournament record: P 10, W 3, D 4, L 3, For 14, Agt 12, Pts 13.

GEORGIA: No record.
Euro '96 form: third in group seven behind Germany and Bulgaria. Qualifying tournament record: P 10, W 5, D 0, L 5, For 14, Agt 13, Pts 15.

MOLDOVA: No record.
Euro '96 form: fourth in group seven behind Germany, Bulgaria and Georgia. Qualifying tournament record: P 10, W 3, D 0, L 7, For 11, Agt 27, Pts 9.



Diego Maradona waves to the crowd after the match between Boca Juniors and Deportivo Espanol. Maradona said the game would be his last for Boca

EUROPEAN

BELGIUM: Standard Liège 1 Ghent 1; Sint-Truiden 2 Club Bruges 4; Lierse 1 Antwerp 2; Charleroi 1 Anderlecht 3; Waregem 0 Seraing 3; Everen 1 Mechelen 0; Aalst 5 Beveren 1; Molenbeek 3 Harelbeke 1; Cercle Bruges 0 Lommel 1.

FRANCE: Cannes 2 Martigues 1; Guingnon 1 Nice 0; Guingamp 0 Lille 1; Le Havre 0 Rennes 0; Lens 0 Auxerre 0; Monaco 0 Bastia 0; Nantes 2 Bordeaux 0; St Etienne 1 Pars Saint-Germain 1; Strasbourg 2 Lyon 2. Postponed: Montpellier v Metz.

HOLLAND: NAC Breda 0 RKC Waalwijk 1; Groningen 0 Go Ahead Eagles 0; PSV Eindhoven 3 Fortuna Sittard 0; Heerenveen 3 Roda JC Kerkrade 2; NEC Nijmegen 1 De Graafschap Dötincham 1; Sparta Rotterdam 1 Willem II Tilburg 1; Vitesse Arnhem 0 Feyenoord Rotterdam 2; FC Twente Enschede 2 FC Volendam 1; FC Utrecht 0 Ajax Amsterdam 3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ajax	16	15	1	0	58	5	46
PSV	17	13	2	2	56	11	41
Willem II	17	7	8	2	37	20	29
Heerenveen	18	7	8	3	29	27	29
Sparta	18	8	5	5	28	27	29
Feyenoord	17	8	4	5	37	26	28
FC Twente	18	7	5	6	25	28	26
Roda JC	17	6	7	4	20	20	25
RKC	18	7	4	7	21	24	25
NAC	16	6	6	4	26	14	24
FC Groningen	18	6	6	6	25	30	24
Vitesse	18	6	5	7	27	31	23
Fortuna Sit.	18	4	5	9	14	34	17
FC Volendam	18	3	5	10	16	37	14
NEC	18	3	5	10	17	43	14
De Graafschap	17	2	5	10	18	36	11
FC Utrecht	18	2	5	11	14	37	11
GA Eagles	17	1	6	10	20	34	9

ITALY: Atalanta 1 Fiorentina 3; Bari 1 Parma 1; Lazio 6 Sampdoria 3; AC Milan 1 Torino 1; Napoli 0 AS Roma 2; Piacenza 2 Cremonese 1; Udinese 3 Padova 1; Vicenza 0 Cagliari 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
AC Milan	14	8	5	1	21	10	29
Fiorentina	14	9	1	4	24	14	28
Parma	14	7	6	1	21	13	27
Lazio	14	6	4	4	25	15	22
Atalanta	14	6	4	4	18	18	22
Juventus	13	6	3	4	21	13	21
AS Roma	14	5	6	3	16	11	21
Sampdoria	14	5	5	4	22	19	20
Cagliari	14	6	2	6	13	15	20
Napoli	14	4	7	3	12	12	19
Udinese	14	5	4	5	15	16	19
Internazionale	13	4	6	3	15	10	18
Vicenza	14	4	5	5	12	13	17
Piacenza	14	4	3	7	16	26	15
Turin	14	3	5	6	13	22	14
Cremonese	14	3	3	8	17	23	9
Bari	14	2	3	9	18	34	9
Padova	14	2	2	10	13	25	8

SPAIN: Real Betis 1 Seville 1; Barcelona 1 Sporting Gijon 0

PORTUGAL: Sporting Lisbon 4 Felgueiras 0; Farense 1 Benfica 3; Chaves 0 Estrela Amadora 0; Leca 1 Guimaraes 0; Porto 5 Tirsense 0; Boavista 1 Salgueiros 1; Campomaiorense 4 Uniao Lerria 2

NON-LEAGUE AND NATIONAL LEAGUES

UNIBOND

PREMIER DIVISION: Accrington Stanley 1 Witton 2; Boston 0 Marine 1; Chorley 1 Winsford 1; Colwyn Bay 1 Buxton 1; Droylsden 2 Leek 1; Frickley 0 Barrow 0; Guiseley 4 Bamber Bridge 0; Hyde 3 Bishop Auckland 1; Knowsley 1 Emley 3; Matlock 3 Blyth Spartans 3; Spennymoor 1 Gainsborough 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bamber Bridge	24	15	6	3	54	24	51
Hyde Utd	23	13	4	6	51	23	43
Guiseley	24	12	7	5	39	25	43
Boston Utd	25	13	2	10	45	32	41
Barrow	19	11	6	2	43	18	39
Gainsborough	22	10	7	5	33	22	37
Emley	22	11	4	7	31	22	37
Witton Alb	23	11	4	8	38	35	37
Spennymoor	22	7	9	6	33	30	30
Leek Town	23	7	8	8	34	30	29
Blyth Spartans	20	8	5	7	36	33	29
Accrington Stanley	21	8	6	7	35	32	27
Marine	19	7	6	6	23	23	27
Bishop Auckland	23	7	6	10	28	34	27
Chorley	22	7	5	10	37	40	26
Winsford Utd	19	6	6	7	19	26	24
Colwyn Bay	20	4	10	6	19	27	22
Knowsley	24	6	3	15	28	53	21
Droylsden	23	5	4	14	29	53	19
Matlock	23	4	6	13	39	48	18
Frickley	21	4	5	9	25	41	17
Buxton	24	3	6	15	22	54	15

FIRST DIVISION: Altreton 2 Whitley Bay 3; Ashton United 1 Worksop 2; Atherton Ut 0 Workington 0; Congleton 0 Farsley Celtic 1; Eastwood Town 1 Lancaster 2; Harrogate Town 0 Gretna 5; Leigh 1 Curzon Ashton 0; Lincoln United 2 Flestwood 2; Nethorfield 0 Warrington 1.

BEAZER HOMES

PREMIER DIVISION: Baldock 1 Ilkeston 1, Burton 1 Merthyr 3; Chelmsford 2 Sudbury 1; Cheltenham 1 Worcester 3; Gravesend and Northfleet 0 Stafford 3; Halesowen 1 Dorchester 0, Newport AFC 0 Gresley 1; Rushden and Diamonds 1 Hastings 1; Salisbury 1 VS Rugby 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rushden and D	21	16	4	1	57	20	52
Cheltenham	21	13	3	5	45	30	42
Gloucester	21	12	4	5	43	25	40
Worcester	19	11	4	4	32	18	37
Halesowen	18	10	5	3	34	24	35
Merthyr	21	11	2	8	41	38	35
Gresley Rovers	20	9	4	7	28	27	31
Cambridge City	20	9	2	9	30	31	29
Burton	19	8	4	7	32	29	28
Newport AFC	19	8	4	7	27	24	28
Hastings	18	7	6	5	28	26	27
Chelmsford	20	7	6	7	23	26	27
Baldock Tn	20	7	5	8	33	29	26
Crawley Town	18	5	7	6	22	24	22
Sudbury Tn	18	5	5	8	29	31	20
Dorchester	17	5	3	9	29	27	18
Salisbury	16	5	3	8	24	30	18
Gravesend and N.	16	5	2	9	25	31	17
Atherstone	18	4	5	9	31	38	17
Ilkeston Tn	19	4	4	11	24	46	16
VS Rugby	20	3	4	13	17	48	13
Stafford	21	2	2	17	27	62	8

MIDLAND DIVISION: Bedworth 3 Handsley Town 1; Buckingham Town 0 Redditch 0; Grantham 0 Leicester United 3; King's Lynn 2 Dudley Town 1; Moor Green 1 Corby 0; Nuneaton 2 Solihull 1; Paget 5 Bury Town 1; RC Warwick 0 Evesham 4; Rothwell 2 Bilston 2; Stourbridge 0 Sutton Coldfield 1; Tamworth 4 Bridgnorth 0. Southern division: Bashley 1 Yate 2; Cinderford 2 Newport IoW 2; Clevedon 1 Margate 4; Erith and Belvedere 0 Forest Green 3; Fleet 3 Ashford 2; Poole 1 Weston-super-Mare 8; Sittingbourne 0 Havant 1; Tonbridge Angels 1 Fareham 8; Trowbridge 1 Fisher 93 1; Weymouth 5 Braintree 1; Witney 0 Waterlooville 1.

ICIS LEAGUE

PREMIER DIVISION: Bishop's Stortford 3 Yeading 1, Chertsey 3 Molesey 0, Dulwich 3 Harrow 2, Enfield 2 Yeovil 1; Hayes 1 Carshalton 2; Hendon 0 Kingstonian 3; Purfleet 1 Aylesbury 2, St Albans 5 Bromley 0; Sutton United 0 Grays 0; Walton and Hersham 4 Hitchin 1; Worthing 0 Boreham Wood 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Enfield	20	14	3	3	41	11	45
Dulwich	17	11	4	2	38	19	37
Boreham Wood	18	11	4	3	29	13	37
Carshalton	17	11	2	4	30	24	35
St Albans	17	10	4	3	36	14	34
Yeovil	18	10	3	5	41	25	33
Kingstonian	18	8	7	3	25	14	31
Aylesbury	17	8	5	4	30	20	29
Harrow Borough	17	8	4	5	30	25	28
Hayes	17	6	7	4	19	14	25
Sutton Utd	17	5	8	4	31	25	23
Bishop's Stortford	17	6	5	6	23	22	23
Chertsey Town	18	6	2	10	22	33	20
Hitchin	16	4	5	7	15	25	17
Yeading	19	3	7	9	18	29	16
Worthing	16	3	5	8	20	31	14
Walton and H	16	4	2	10	16	29	14
Hendon	14	3	3	8	12	25	12
Molesey	17	3	3	11	16	36	12
Purfleet	14	1	6	7	13	26	9
Grays	16	1	5	10	8	27	8
Bromley	16	2	2	12	12	38	8

FIRST DIVISION: Abingdon Town 4 Barking 0; Aldershot Town 2 Wokingham 2; Barton 5 Wembley 1; Billericay 1 Oxford City 0; Bognor Regis 0 Marlow 1; Chesham 1 Maidenhead United 0; Leyton Pennant 3 Basingstoke 1; Ruislip Manor 2 Berkhamsted 3; Staines 3 Uxbridge 1; Thame 0 Tooting and Mitcham 0; Whyteleafe 4 Heybridge Swifts 1. Second division: Banstead 2 Wivenhoe 0; Canvey Island 4 Dorking 0, Edgware 3 Bedford Town 1; Egham A Collier Row A; Hemel Hempstead 0 Saltron Walden 2; Hungerford 0 Croydon 3; Leatherhead 2 Cheshunt 2; Ware 1 Bracknell 1; Witham 3 Chatham St Peter 5. Third division: Camberley 0 Cove 1, Clapton 3 Hertford 0; Harlow 3 Wealdstone 0; Hornchurch 2 Flackwell Heath 2, Kingsbury 4 Wingate and Finchley 0, Leighton 3 Horsham 3; Northwood 4 Epsom and Ewell 2; Southall 0 East Thurrock 1; Windsor and Eton 7 Harefield 0.

HIGHLAND LEAGUE: Brora 1 Cove 3, Forres Mechanics 0 Clachnacuddin 2; Huntly 6 Rothes 2; Keith 4 Fort William 0; Lossiemouth 5 Nairn County 0; Peterhead 4 Elgin 1; Wick Academy 2 Buckie Thistle 3

BANKS'S BREWERY LEAGUE: Premier division: Brierley Hill 4 Ettingshall Hl 1; Darlaston FC 2 Malvern 1; Gornal 2 Walsall Wood FC 0; Lichfield 0 Lye 4; Pelsall Villa 3 Hill Top 0, Stafford 1 Wednesfield FC 2; Tividale FC 3 Ludlow 3; Westfields FC 5 Cradley 2; Wolverhampton Casuals 3 Blowich 3

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Southampton 1 Arsenal 1

COMBINED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Ash 1 Merstham 2; Bedfont 0 Chipstead 0; Cobham 2 DCA Basingstoke 0; Cranleigh 3 Farnham 2, Elon Wick 1 Westfield 3, Hartley Wintney 0 Ashford 2, Horley 2 Godalming and Guildford 5; Netherne 1 Feltham 1, Viking Sports 0 Walton Casuals 3.

ENDSLEIGH MIDLAND COMBINATION: Premier division: Coventry Sphinx 0 Highgate 1; Handsman Timbers 0 Coleshill 2; Northfield 2 Blowich 8; Shirley 1 Alvechurch Villa 2; Upton 3 Moor KA 3, Wellesbourne 1 Knowle 4

GREAT MILLS LEAGUE: Premier division: Backwell 1 Paulton 1, Barnstaple 0 Bristol Manor Farm 0; Brislington 3 Bridport 1, Calne 0 Tiverton 2, Crediton 0 Chippenham 1; Elmore 0 Taunton 6, Odd Down 3 Bideford 2; Torrington 3 Frome 0, Westbury 0 Mangotsfield 3.

ESSEX SENIOR LEAGUE: Premier division: Bowers 2 Burnham Ramblers 1; Elon Manor 0 Concord 2; Maldon 3 Ford United 1, Romford 1 Southend Manor 0; Sawbridgeworth 3 Hullbridge Sports 0; Stansted 1 Great Wakering 3

FA CARLSBERG VASE: Third round proper: Thamesmead 3 Brentwood 1; Tilbury 2 Aveley 4; Slade Green 0 Diss 2. Third round replay: Furness 1 Raunds 1.

FEDERATION BREWERY NORTHERN LEAGUE: First division: Billingham Synthonia 3 Peterlee 0; Consett 3 West Auckland 1; Durham 1 Shildon 0; Eppleton CW 1 Bedlington 3; Murton 0 Gunsborough 0; RTM Newcastle 2 Chester-le-Street 1; Seaham Red Star 1 Dunston Federation 3, Tow Law 4 Ferryhill 0; Whickham 0 Stockton 7; Whitby 3 Crook 3

HEREWARD SPORTS UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Boston 2 Mirrlees Blackstone 1; Cogenhoe 3 Wootton 1; Eynesbury 4 Northampton Spencer 2; Long Buckby 2 Desborough 0; Newport Pagnell 1 Bourne 1; Stamford 0 Wellingborough 1; S and L Corby 5 St Neots 1; Stotfold 1 Spalding 2. Postponed: Raunds v Holbeach.

INTERLINK EXPRESS MIDLAND ALLIANCE: Barwell 4 Rushall Olympic 1, Blakenall 2 Sandwell 1, Hinckley Athletic 5 Boldmere St Michaels 2; Kynpersley 4 Bolehall Swifts 1, Pershore 0 West Midlands Police 0; Shepshad Dynamo 2 Stratford 0; Stapenhill 2 Rocester 2

JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Lowestoft 1 Haverhill 1, Merch 4 Harwich and Parkeston 1, Newmarket 4 Halstead 2, Soham 1 Hadleigh 0; Stowmarket 1 Great Yarmouth 0, Sudbury 1 Felixstowe 6, Sudbury 1 Fakenham 2; Watton 0 Clacton 0, Wisbech 1 Woodbridge 0, Wroxham 0 Tiptree 0.

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: Lymington 4 Downton 2; BAT 2 Bournemouth 0; Bemerton Heath Harl 4 Aerostructures 0; Christchurch 2 Gosport 2; Cowes Sports 3 Brockenhurst 1, East Cowes 1 Portsmouth RN 1; Eastleigh 4 Swanage and Herston 0; Petersfield 4 Totton 5; Ryde Sports 4 Wimborne 0; Whitchurch 0 Andover 4

OLD BOYS LEAGUE: Premier division: Old Danes 0 Old Isleworthians 3; Cardinal Manning OB 1 Old Aloysians 2; Clapham 2 Old Ignatians 4 Senior first division: Old Salvatorians 1 Old Kingsburians 2, Old Wilsonians 4 Old Tenconians 1; Chertsey Old Salesians 1 Old Minchindenians 3 Old Westhamians 1; Enfield 0 Grammarians 6 Old Southallians 0, Old Wokingians 1 Mill Hill County OB 1 Senior third division: Old Salvatorians 3 Old Hamptonians 0; John Fisher Old Boys 3 Old Vaughanians 1. Old Ignatians 0 Old Dorkinians 7; Old Tollingtonians 2 Old Buckwertians 3.

MINERVA SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division: Brache Sparta 6 Letchworth 1; Buckingham Athletic 0 Royston 0; Harpenden 0 Biggleswade 1; London Colney 6 Potters Bar 1, Langford 2 Arlesey 1; Shillington 1 Hoddesdon 2; Tottington 1 Hatfield 2.

NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Blackpool Rovers 2 Kidsgrove 1; Burscough 2 Glossop North End 3; Eastwood Hanley 0 Chadderton 1; Holker Old Boys 2 Bootle 0; Mossley 3 Maine Road 0; Nantwich 2 Darwen 0; Rossendale 1 Prescot 2; St Helens 4 Penrith 3; Salford 2 Clitheroe 2; Skelmersdale 1 Flixton 2, Trafford 2 Newcastle Town 1.

LONDON SPARTAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Barkingside 1 Corinthian-Casuals 0; Brook House 2 Woodwich Town 2, Hanwell Town 0 Waltham Abbey 1, St Margaretsbury 2 Hillingdon Borough 2; Tottenham Omada 1 Crediton 2; Walleden (Hawkeye) 1 Burnsdown Rovers 1 League cup: Second round, second leg: Tufnell Park 1 Croydon 0.

HELLENIC LEAGUE: Premier division: Burnham 1 Highworth 2; Lambourn Sports 2 Cirencester 2; North Leigh 1 Almondsbury 1; Shortwood 1 Farford 2. Premier division cup: Brackley 1 Endsleigh 0.

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Denaby 1 Goole 0; Glasshoughton W 2 Arnold 2; Hatfield Main 1 Belper Town 1; Hucknall 0 Brigg 2; Liversedge 0 Armthorpe Welfare 0; North Ferriby 7 Ashfield 2; Ossett Town 2 Hallam 2; Pickering 3 Maltby MW 2; Sheffield 2 Ossett A 2, Thackley 1 Stocksbridge PS 1.

SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Charlton Ath 1 Portsmouth 1; Chelsea 4 Millwall 0; Fulham 1 Leyton Orient 0; Gillingham 2 Norwich 2; OPR 1 Arsenal 3; Southend 0 Ipswich 0; Tottenham Hotspur 1 West Ham 3; Watford 4 Cambridge 2 Second division: Bournemouth 5 Reading 2; Barnet 1 Crystal Palace 1; Brentford 2 Colchester 1; Brighton and Hove Albion 3 Swindon 1; Bristol 2 Oxford 3; Luton 1 Bristol 0; Southampton 1 Tottenham Hotspur 2; Wimbledon 0 Wycombe 1

SOUTHERN AMATEUR LEAGUE: Old Esthamelans 1 South Bank Poly 1, NatWest Bank 1 West Wickham 1; Crouch End Vampires 1 Kew Association 0; Civil Service 1 Old Actonians 0, Carshalton 1 Winchmore Hill 1; Lloyds Bank 6 Old Bromleons 2, Old Laymenans 1 Old Parmiterians 4; Merton 1 Old Salesians 7; Old Westminster Ctz 2 Ibis 3; Brentham 5 Southgate Olympic 4.

SOUTHERN OLYMPIAN LEAGUE: Senior one: Albanian 1 Nottsborough 0; Old Grammarians 3 Witan 2, Southgate County 4 Parkfield 0, Ulysses 1 Hale End 2 Senior two: Cobham 1 London 3 Hadley 0, Honourable Artillery Co 2 Ealing Association 1; Mill Hill Village 6 Old Woodhousians 3; Wandsworth 3 Corinthian-Casuals 0 Senior three: Birkbeck College 3 London Welsh 3; Duncombe Sports 6 Old Monovians 0; Fulham Compton OB 4 Westerns 2; Old Simmarobians 2 Hampstead Heathens 1 Postponed: Polygons v Old Fairlopians. Senior four: Bournoside 2 Old Colfelians 2, Inland Revenue 2 Pegasus 0; NSY Comets 3 Economicals 1. Postponed: Camlymca v London Airways, Meyhald v Cardinal Pole.

UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: Arundel 2 Ringmer 0; Burgess Hill 3 Pagham 1, Eastbourne Town 0 Portfield 0; Hailsham 4 Oakwood 1; Horsham YMCA 1 Peacehaven and Telscombe 2; Southwick 0 Hassocks 0; Stamco 3 Whitehawk 1; Three Bridges 1 Crowborough 0; Wick 0 Langney Sports 1.

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: First division: Chatham 9 Deal 1; Corinthian 1 Herne Bay 1; Faversham 1 Beckenham 0; Folkestone Invicta 1 Canterbury 2; Ramsgate 3 Hythe 2; Tunbridge W 0 Dartford 5

ARTHURIAN LEAGUE: Arthur Dunn Cup: Bradfieldians 9 Haileyburians 1; Carthusians 4 Eastbournians 0; Chomeleians 0 Repliconians 1; Haberdashers' 0 Brentwoods 5; Lancing 8 Wellingburians 0 Premier division: Etonians 3 Aldenhamians 1.

FA WOMEN'S LEAGUE: Southern division: Brighton and Hove Albion 3 Oxford United 0

FA WOMEN'S LEAGUE CUP: Second round: Ilkeston Tn Rangers 1 Croydon 2; Millwall Lionesses 2 Berkhamsted Town 1.

NATIONAL

LEAGUE OF WALES: Afan Lido 0 Flint Town 3; Caersws 4 Rhyl 2; Connah's Quay 2 Conwy 4, Ebbw Vale 3 Caernarfon 2, Holywell 2 Briton Ferry 2; Llanelli 1 Bangor City 3.

SMIRNOFF IRISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Arda 1 Glentoran 4; Crusaders 2 Bangor 0; Glenavon 1 Cliftonville 2; Linfield 1 Portadown 0. First division: Ballymena 0 Ballyclare 0; Carrick 1 Larne 0; Newry 1 Coleraine 4, Omagh 3 Distillery 1

BORD GAIS LEAGUE OF IRELAND: Premier division: Galway 2 Sligo 3, UCD 2 Derry 0; Shamrock Rovers 0 St Patrick's Athletic 1

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

	HOME						AWAY						Goal	
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt	diff
1 Newcastle	18	9	0	0	21	4	4	3	2	16	11	42	+22
2 Man Utd	17	6	3	0	20	8	4	2	2	15	9	35	+18
3 Tottenham	18	4	2	3	10	9	5	4	0	14	8	33	+7
4 A Villa	18	5	3	1	14	6	4	2	3	11	8	32	+11
5 Liverpool	18	6	2	1	20	5	3	2	4	11	10	31	+16
6 Arsenal	18	5	4	0	15	7	3	3	3	8	5	31	+11
7 Middlsboro	18	6	2	1	14	5	2	4	3	5	7	30	+7
8 Nottm F	16	4	4	0	16	8	2	5	1	10	15	27	+3
9 Leeds	17	5	1	3	11	9	2	3	3

Football management's happy Wanderer remains defiant in defeat

McGhee relaxes in new Wolves lair

Russell Kempson on how Port Vale's 1-0 victory put the seal on a day of mixed emotion at Molineux



McGhee, second from right, shouts instructions at his Wolverhampton charges on Saturday. Photograph: John Potter

At three minutes to three on a numbing afternoon, Mark McGhee emerged from the players' tunnel. He stopped momentarily, confronted by a posse of predatory photographers, and gazed around at the magnificence that is Molineux. In an instant, all the self-induced suffering of the past weeks must have seemed worthwhile. McGhee, a managerial nobody 4½ years ago, had arrived with Wolverhampton Wanderers.

It mattered not that he had angered and alienated a club and its supporters for the second time in 12 months. A year ago, it was Reading on whom he walked out after champagne celebrations with the chairman, John Madejski, had appeared to signify a new deal; 11 days ago, it was Leicester City he left in the lurch after abruptly handing in his resignation to the chairman, Martin George — coincidentally, just as the Wolves were stalking their prey.

In a sport riddled with backhanders and bungs, allegedly, and players who switch allegiances at the drop of a 10p piece, apparently, it may seem churlish to moralise over a manager also exercising his right to better himself, financially and professionally. It is more the insensitive manner and indecent haste of McGhee's departures that will long continue to provoke distaste whenever his name is mentioned around Filbert Street or Elm Park.

It can be argued, too, that his moves have made sense. Having led Reading from nowhere to the brink of the FA Carling Premiership, it was glaringly obvious that Leicester could offer much more than the quaint yet antiquated Berkshire club. It was also equally clear that Wolverhampton offered far greater riches than anything George could lay before him.

The Molineux that Sir Jack Hayward built represents a £30 million investment, from bricks and mortar to players and pay-packets. The garish hue of the stadium may offend those without black and gold in their veins, but its grand design reeks of privilege and potential. A cat-napping colossus waiting to be reawoken, yet too big a job for Graham Taylor, the former England manager. Enter McGhee.

Remorse, though, has little part in the McGhee make-up. At 38, and for such a relative newcomer to the jungle, the former Scotland striker exhibits an airy composure that is more usually reserved for ageing guardians of perennial cup-winners or league champions. Arrogance, aloofness? Not quite. "Regardless of the impression people might have of me walking out on Leicester, I feel relaxed and confident that I was within my rights to do what I did," he said. "What you plan for your career does not always happen the way you expected it to."

Madejski and George will reluctantly concur, and even the Wolverhampton supporters appeared a shade bewildered on Saturday. McGhee's theatrical entrance — after the playing of *Simply The Best* and *The Wonder of You* over the public-address system — was greeted by applause that hovered between appreciative and rapturous.

Ninety minutes later, the punters were further flustered. A sixth-minute goal from Porter, presented to him by de Wolf's poor pass and Stowell's late dive, was easily enough to halt Molineux's New Age travellers. Thereafter, Wolverhampton were unable to muster anything to match Port Vale's well-drilled defence and all-round speed of thought. McGhee is an impatient taskmaster and a football purist, but even he needs more than three days to transform a relegation-threatened sow's ear into, possibly, a play-off contending silk purse.

A partially sighted novice could see that his players wanted to perform with fantasy and fluency, but they had neither the ability nor knowledge to carry out their new master's wishes. "There was a bit of confusion over passing the ball," McGhee conceded. "It was being done just for the sake of it, rather than with any purpose, but at least they showed a willingness to do it."

Loyalty was not a dirty word when John Rudge took over at Vale Park 12 years ago and, should he eventually depart the Potteries, it will be with a firm handshake and genuine thank-you. "I gather Mark has said that you've got to beat teams like us to succeed, but it's not as easy as that," Rudge, who was born in Wolverhampton, said, a wry grin betraying his paternal amusement.

McGhee will get it right — his track record, albeit brief, is already impressive — and his grasp of diplomacy should improve, too. It is inconceivable that he will repeat his errors of judgment, if and when he bids farewell to the Black Country, but a vivid and vociferous reminder is sure to be lurking, this Saturday, when he emerges from the players' tunnel. Wolverhampton are playing Reading. At Elm Park.

WOLVERHAMPTON WANDERERS (4-4-2): M Stowell — M Rankine, D Richards, J de Wolf (sub: P Birch, 72min), M Venus — M Atkins (sub: A Daley, 72), N Emblen, D Ferguson, A Thompson — S Bull, D Goodman.
PORT VALE (4-4-2): P Musselwhite — A Hill, G Griffiths, D Glover, R Samuel — J McCarthy, R Walker, A Porter, S Guppy — A Naylor (sub: L Mills, 89), M Foyle.
Referee: J Kirkby.

O'Neill's resignation stuns Norwich

BY RUSSELL KEMPSON

JUST when normal service appeared ready to resume, another bizarre bout of managerial musical chairs broke out in the Endsleigh Insurance League first division yesterday. Martin O'Neill, the manager of Norwich City for six months, tendered his resignation only a few hours before the match against Leicester City at Filbert Street, which Norwich lost 3-2. It was also revealed that there will be an announcement from Luton Town today, prompting speculation that Terry Westley will be dismissed after five months in charge.

Mike Walker, formerly in charge at Norwich and Everton, who was expected to be installed as the new Leicester manager after the game yesterday, was left wondering where his future lay. "We have no announcements planned," a club spokesman said, leaving Leicester supporters even more bemused after the sudden departure of Mark McGhee and his assistants, Colin Lee and Mike Hickman, 11 days ago.

O'Neill, however, was expected to meet Martin George, the Leicester chairman, for talks last night. It appears that George's interviews on Friday, with Walker and Trevor Francis, the former Sheffield Wednesday manager, had proved fruitless.

O'Neill's hasty exit from Carrow Road, after he joined them from Wycombe Wanderers during the summer, is the culmination of an increasingly frosty relationship with Robert Chase, the Norwich chairman. He has discovered, as did Walker until he left Norwich in January last year, that Chase is not keen — and probably never will be — to release substantial club funds for the buying of players.



O'Neill: Leicester bound?

Chase, clearly unnerved by the developments, said: "I had a ten-minute conversation with Martin at the team hotel and that was it. I'm very sorry and I'm very disappointed. I was aware only yesterday that he was unhappy." Chase has refused to accept the resignation, with O'Neill still having 18 months of his two-year contract to run.

If he does leave, O'Neill will be the fourteenth manager to depart this season, all of them from clubs outside the FA Carling Premiership. He turned down the job at Leicester last year, when McGhee succeeded Brian Little. Paul Franklin, O'Neill's assistant, took charge of the team yesterday, with David Nish, the youth team manager, still looking after Leicester. Nish will have been the most satisfied as Leicester overcame an early 2-0 deficit to move from tenth to third place in the division.

Eadie opened the scoring after 65 seconds, and Fleck added to the lead from a rebound. Goals from Whitlow, Roberts and Heskey alleviated some of the gloom for Leicester.

Stylish Chelsea expose flaws in Rioch's armoury

Arsenal 1
Chelsea 1

BY OLIVER HOLT

IN BARELY the time it took to rescue a match that seemed to have slipped beyond his reach, Bruce Rioch, the Arsenal manager, turned from Big Brother into humble apologist at Highbury. Before the London derby, he loomed large on the giant screen, warning the club's young followers to "lead a good life and stay off the alcohol; it's not good for you".

Afterwards, he was filled with a tactical humility that was warming to see. "I cocked it up," he said. "I was too cautious." Forced to start the game without Bergkamp, who suffered a recurrence of a calf injury during Holland's 2-0 victory over Ireland on Wednesday, Rioch proved there are still traces of the negative tie that has bound Arsenal teams over recent years. Rather than playing to his own team's strengths, he chose instead to try to stifle Chelsea, detailing Keown to man-mark Spencer and Jensen to throttle Wise.

The result was a shambolic Arsenal midfield being passed to death by an assured Chelsea team. For Arsenal supporters, it was painful. Platt was ineffective. Merson detached. Often it was left to Keown and Jensen to act as playmakers and it was not pretty.

Chelsea stroked the ball around midfield with a series of one-touch moves that left Arsenal chasing shadows and took the lead midway through the first half. Burley's long, accurate cross was flicked back at the far post by Phelan and into the path of Spencer. He shot the ball past Seaman from 15 yards.

After that, though, Chelsea began to congratulate themselves on the extent and ease of their domination. Time and again they had chances to pour forward on the break and always they seemed to prefer the safer option of checking and holding on to the ball, forfeiting the opportunity to put the game out of reach.

In the second half, when Rioch saw the error of his ways and brought Helder on for Jensen, Arsenal improved a little. Kharine saved well with his legs from Wright after 63 minutes, and even after Bould was sent off in the 79th minute for his second clumsy foul on Hughes, Merson hit the bar and Helder brought a fine save out of Kharine. Two minutes from the end, though, Dixon, who had had a particularly poor game, latched on to a half-cleared corner and hit an unstoppable, rising shot into the roof of the net.

Hoddle was disappointed with the result, but pleased that his system had worked so well. "We were very close to playing the sort of football that is dear to my heart," he said.

Rioch gave the impression of being a manager beset by problems. Both Bould and Adams, his centre backs, will miss part of the holiday programme through suspension and his playing staff is beginning to look dangerously thin on the ground. He was admirably candid, but hinted he was searching for new blood. "The players have been magnificent for me this season but the previous manager said before the start of this season that it needed a rebuild," he said. "We lost five players in the summer and only signed two and the coaching staff said we were short before.

"We have not yet got the best out of David Platt because we have not got anybody who can consistently provide him with the ammunition."

ARSENAL (4-2-2-2): D Seaman — L Dixon, S Bould, A Adams, N Winterburn — M Keown, J Jensen (sub: G Helder, 46min) — D Platt, P Merson — J Hartson, I Wright.
CHELSEA (5-4-1): D Kharine — D Petrescu, D Lee, A Myers, M Duberry, T Phelan (sub: S Clarke, 46) — D Wise, J Spencer (sub: P Furlong, 89), C Burley, E Newton — M Hughes.
Referee: G Ashby.

Regis rolling back the years

Chester City 1
Preston North End 1

BY IAN RODGERS

HISTORY and the City of Chester have always complemented each other. Tourists are attracted by the pastiche of Roman and Tudor architecture and their amalgamation with nightclubs and fast-food chains. Beyond the walls of the city, Kevin Ratcliffe, the manager of Chester City, has used this temple of past and present to guide his side to the apex of the Endsleigh Insurance League third division.

As assistant manager last season, Ratcliffe could only watch as the young team fell ungraciously from the second division. When he was promoted in the summer, his first transaction brought a piece of Midlands football folklore to the Deva Stadium.

The impact that Cyrille Regis has made has been immense. He has become an icon for the club's supporters. His face adorns T-shirts in the club shop, and even the PA announcer claimed that there were "no words to describe this man" before the game.

The bullish figure that tore at first division defences may be more rotund, but Regis remains the figurehead in attack. In the first half, though, Regis had to occupy the role of spectator as Preston dominated. The impressive Graeme Atkinson in midfield fuelled numerous attacks, and when his flicked cross was converted by Steve Wilkinson, the Lancashire club appeared to be coasting. Instead, a swift turn and shot from Nick Richardson brought the equaliser, and urged City to play with confidence more becoming of leaders.

With the signing of Regis, Ratcliffe has followed the example of his mentor, Howard Kendall, who drafted Andy Gray into an inferior Everton side in 1983, with dramatic results. Ratcliffe should use the precedent to instil his own players with a greater confidence.

CHESTER CITY (4-4-2): W Stewart — N Fisher, P Jackson, J Alford, J Burnham — J Kenworthy (sub: A Milner, 87min), G Shelton (sub: S Whelan, 87), N Richardson, K Notaman — S Rimmer, C Regis.
PRESTON NORTH END (4-4-2): J Vaughan — A Fensome, R Wilcox, D Moyes, D Barrick — S Davey, I Bryson, G Atkinson, L Cartwright — A Saville, S Wilkinson (sub: G Lancashire, 83).
Referee: R Poulain.

Diss revel in strange pressure

Slade Green 0
Diss Town 2

BY WALTER GAMMIE

THREE coachloads of tangerine-clad supporters set the tinsel swinging as they piled into the bar at the Small Glen on Saturday, greeting friends, swapping travellers tales — "we went round that roundabout six times" — and filling the air with bold talk of revisiting Wembley.

The FA Vase victory of 1994 has given Diss Town's followers the taste of the high life that brought them out in a 300-strong force for the 2½-hour journey from Norfolk for a postponed third-round tie on Saturday. Winstonlead, their Kent League hosts, were left with a small explosion in their bar takings and a sharp footballing lesson by confident and well-drilled opponents.

Diss were let off by the unmarked Lee Garrett inside the first five minutes, then made all the running to win with goals by Paul Warne after 15 minutes and Aaron Gardner in the 52nd minute.

The goals bore the hallmark of Diss's style. Carter, the central defender, opened up Slade Green with a splendid first-time pass to Warne that gave testimony to creative distribution from the back. Gardner was at the end of a far post cross by Pilbrough, their right wing, who with Smith, their captain, carved up Slade Green down the right flank while Wilcox raided effectively down the left.

The supporters revelled in it all. "They put us under so much pressure at home," Bill Punton, the manager, said. "They expect us to beat sides five or six nil. It's easier for us when we're away. The players relax more."

Punton has his heart on the Jewson Eastern Counties League, in which Diss trail Stowmarket by a point. "Then I will have won everything with the club," he said. Further Vase success will be a testing distraction, stretching a tripwire of delayed fixtures.

SLADE GREEN (4-4-2): D Lee — M White, P Miles, M Phillips, G Hall (sub: R Charles, 84min) — P Deadman, P Garrett, T Lee, D Martin — L Garrett (sub: L Mountford, 76), K Penford.
DISS TOWN (3-5-2): R Woodcock — S Williams, J Carter, M Keeley — M Pilbrough, G Smith, A Gardner, R Musgrave, R Wilcox — S Curtis (sub: P Bugg, 84), P Warne (sub: R Martin, 79).
Referee: R Evans.

Renewal offers overdue test of progress on two fronts

KEVIN McCARRA



Scottish commentary

History made a comeback in Birmingham yesterday when the European championship draw reinstated the Wembley weekend. The scheduling of a match between England and Scotland for London on a Saturday afternoon, June 15, will make police and citizens of the capital shudder as they recall the biennial bacchanal before the fixture was abandoned in 1989.

By then it truly had become unsavoury. The game was played in Glasgow that year and there were running battles involving English hooligans in the streets near Hampden Park. In the past, of course, Scotland supporters had also taken a gift for mayhem with them on their travels, even if the self-styled Tartan Army would insist it was guilty only of high spirits.

A truer measure of the occasional obnoxiousness was provided in the 1970s by the London Underground train drivers who preferred to go on strike rather than accept such passengers. All the same, the possibility of bedlam is, one might recklessly suggest, much diminished these days.

Good behaviour has become a welcome fad among people who follow Scotland. It is now customary for this band of revellers to go to the leading events and to avoid the digression of even a single arrest. Faces painted like a saltire and an array of rather seedy kilts may be fashion offences, but true misdemeanours are less common.

After the 1992 European championship, held in Sweden, Uefa even gave a fair play award to the Scottish supporters. Circumspection has been an unexpected development, but it may have its roots in traditional rivalry. Since the 1980s, violence and racism have distinguished elements of the England support and, in the audience for the Scotland team, the adoption of civilised manners has been a form of one-upmanship.

There is a smug pleasure in being more orderly than the English. The whiff of sanctimony is acceptable since it has at least brought improvement in the reputation of Scotland *aficionados*. In other respects, however, a return to some old habits would be stimulating. After the draw yesterday, Craig Brown, the Scotland manager, said: "We've been looking to play England for a long time and it's taken someone else to arrange it for us. We're very happy."

Enemies need one another. The game with England once supplied a focus for the whole of Scottish football. Even the confirmed spendthrift was inclined to save for the trip to Wembley and the costly carousing that was part of the ritual. The expenditure of ingenuity was just as great in the pursuit of the elusive tickets for a sell-out event.

Investment of time and emotion in the national team, however, has since dropped dramatically with a shift in attention towards the glamour of club football now that Rangers and, to a lesser extent, Celtic can afford to sign celebrated foreign players. Scotland have continued to be a rather more impressive force in European competition than the Old Firm, but there has been little praise.

Achievement is not quite enough, even though the senior team has qualified for England while the under-21 and youth sides are in the quarter-finals of their European championships. There is still apathy to be countered and the Scottish Football Association (SFA) has been forced to give free or subsidised tickets to youngsters in order to prop up attendance figures for internationals at Hampden.

That necessity is galling since, in most other respects, the SFA feels that it has entered a vibrant era. On Friday, the Millennium Fund authorised a £23 million grant that will ensure Hampden's transformation into a spectacular ground. Given this encouragement, the SFA is now intent on bidding to host the European championship, possibly in 2004.

It has, all the same, been easier to sweep away outmoded stadiums from the landscape than to dispel the indifference that surrounds Scotland. The thought of a match against England with much more than mere honour at stake, though, must arouse the passions of even the most jaded Scot.

Where the SFA has faltered, the chance events of a draw in Birmingham may have succeeded and Craig Brown's team could find itself reinstated at the heart of the nation's life. All they have to do is win at Wembley.

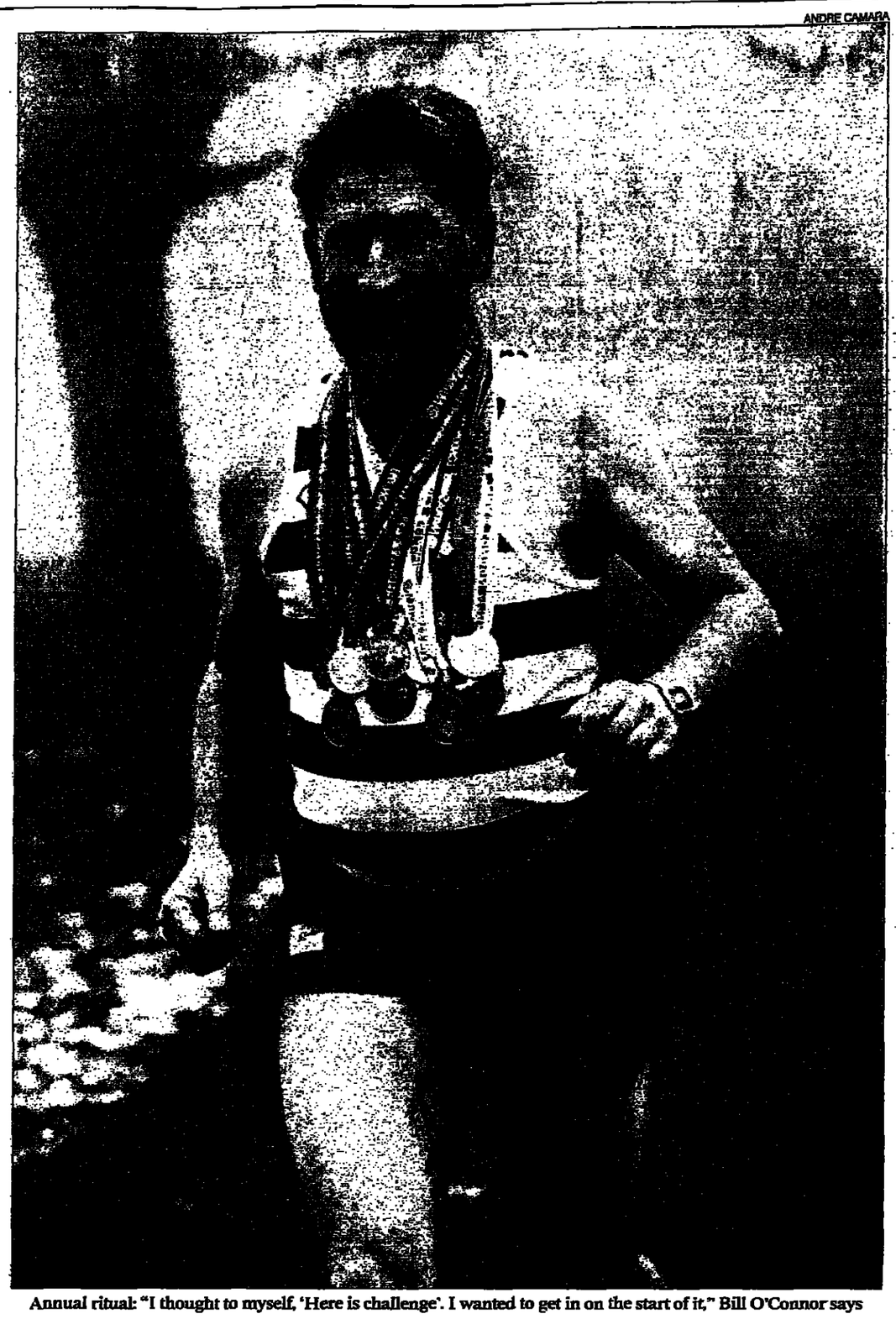
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John Goodbody begins a series on the build-up to the challenging annual run through the capital's streets

When one London marathon is not enough


ANDRE CAMARA

Annual ritual: "I thought to myself, 'Here is challenge'. I wanted to get in on the start of it," Bill O'Connor says

SPORT FOR ALL

They are the hardiest and most unyielding runners of all. They number 42 and they have completed every London marathon since the first race in 1981.

In recognition of their physical and mental durability, these athletes have been given a permanent entry in the event for the rest of their lives, provided, of course, that they do not miss a year. People have run the race faster or under greater handicaps, but these are men with a mission.

For them the annual event is a way of life, not just a worthy fund-raising exercise or a single challenge.

It is, Bill O'Connor says, an "annual ritual". For him, running itself is often a daily ritual, something that he began in his native New Zealand, scampering shoe-less after rabbits as a youngster and continued as an adult, pounding along the wet sand on the edge of the Tasman Sea.

> ' Running helps me to get away from the world. I feel as free as a bird '

Now aged 50 and a mathematics teacher at Queen's Park Community School in north west London, he remains enthralled by the event and the activity of running.

It was not always like this.

At the age of 21, he was four stone overweight and had to be given ten yards in a 100-yard race. "I was ready for the grave," he said. When he first ran a mile race, he was so tired that he slept for 15 hours.

But he became caught up in the New Zealand running boom of the 1960s and 1970s, with Arthur Lydiard — and his preaching of training 100 miles a week — and the cluster of Olympic medal-winners such as Murray Halberg and Peter Snell, Rod Dixon and John Walker.

When he came to Britain in 1971 he planned to stay two years. He has never left. He began by driving minibuses around Europe. This erratic schedule forced him to give up running. However, when he settled in London he joined Queen's Park Harriers, where he is now captain of cross-country.

He rekindled his interest in athletics but had yet to run a marathon. "I feared it. I used to see runners suffer so and I began to be teased about it." O'Connor made his debut in the Polytechnic marathon of 1979. "I went through 20 miles at 2 hours 2 minutes and then hit the wall. I could not do anything. I finished in 2 hours 56 minutes."

His wife, Tricia, watching from the stand, says he looked so exhausted when he arrived in the stadium that she thought he would not complete the distance. "I wanted to run it for him."

He survived and did four minutes faster the next year. An obsession had begun.

Then Chris Brasher invented the London marathon. "I thought to myself, 'Here is a challenge'. I wanted to get in on the start of it. It was a huge gamble by Brasher and I thought that, if there were only one race, I wanted to have run in it."

But the London marathon became one of the most illustrious success stories of British sport and O'Connor has been a constant part of it. Had he ever felt that he would not finish? "In 1985, it was a beautiful day and I went out far too fast for the first mile and got worried. I thought I was going to do four hours. So I did seven minutes for the next mile and eventually did 2 hours 34 minutes 29 seconds." It was his best time.

That day he finished two minutes behind his sister, Mary, who was second in both 1983 and 1986 and represented New Zealand at Olympic and Commonwealth Games and world championships. But one year, when on schedule for a fast time, she "blew up" and Bill passed her on the Embankment.

"She was conked out. I just said 'Come on. Just keep it up.'" Bill believes that he has remained relatively injury-free because he ran barefoot when he was a boy. His sister also has feet that he describes as being like shoe-leather. Their upbringing helped to condition their legs.

Their brother, who is a priest, once ran 2 hours 21 minutes in finishing second in the Pakistan championships. "In fact, I am the slow one in the family," Bill says. "I love running. It helps me to get away from the world. I feel free. I will run until I die."

On your marks: get ready for your first time

How do people begin training for a 26-mile 385-yard trial?





Sue and Stephen Smith are raring to go

FOR first-time runners, the 1996 Flora London marathon is a heroic journey. The question on their minds is always the same: can we finish the 26 miles and 385 yards?

For Stephen and Sue Smith, the problem is also one of juggling their jobs, three children and the preparations for one of the epic feats in sport. Both, at least, have a solid background in physical activity, although Sue says candidly: "It will probably be the most painful thing I have ever done."

The couple are raising money for the National Asthma Campaign. Sue, 34, has suffered from asthma since she was 20, although running has helped her to breathe more easily.

At school she enjoyed horse-riding. She then began squash and badminton before starting jogging. She runs for the Epsom Allsorts, one of the flourishing all-women clubs that have sprung up during the running boom. Sue prefers training with companions: "This is partly for safety but running is less boring if you have someone to chat to."

HER WORK as sales manager for Weekender Ladies Wear usually takes place during the evening so she has some mornings free to prepare for the marathon. She has beaten 55 minutes for a 10 kms road race so her target of between 4 hours 30 minutes and 5 hours seems reasonable.

Her great weakness is chocolate: "I am one of those people, who, if there is a box of chocolates in the house, is not happy unless I have eaten them all. I am always worried that I might end up the size of a house."

Her husband, Stephen, 35, was inspired by the first London marathon in 1981. "I applied then but was unsuccessful. A friend got in and I went to watch him. It was tremendous and I have been trying ever since to get a place. It is something that I have always wanted to do. I just cannot wait for the actual day."

During his lunch-hours from his job as the finance director for Oddbins, he has been playing squash regularly but now plans to begin his build-up for the marathon.

In his one serious race, a 10-mile event last summer, he did a highly respectable 78 minutes.

He thinks that training for the race will be "an exercise in logistics". He hopes that he can get in some running sessions with his wife, perhaps while his son, Matthew, accompanies them on his bicycle and his parents-in-law look after the two other children.

The pair will find that, like so many other first-time runners, the more regular running they can do before April 21, the more pleasurable and more satisfying the day will be.

JOHN GOODBODY

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

This hand is from the round-robin phase of the Marlboro Bermuda Bowl. As West, would you respond to East's One Club?

Dealer East — North-South game — IMPs

North: ♠AJ2 ♥AJ83 ♦AKQJ2 ♣7
West: ♠10753 ♥75 ♦105 ♣Q8642
East: ♠KQ6 ♥KQ ♦63 ♣AK10953
South: ♠984 ♥109642 ♦9874 ♣J

W	N	E	S
Westra	—	Leufkens	
—	—	1 C	Pass
1 S	Double	2 H (1)	Pass
3 C	Double	Pass	3 H
Pass	4 H	All pass	

Contract: Four Hearts by South. Lead: Seven of Spades

(1) This apparently showed three spades and at least five clubs, and a good hand.

There has been a fair amount of intellectual discussion on the merits or demerits of responding to a suit opening bid when you have a very weak hand. There is certainly a case for it when you are non-vulnerable against vulnerable opponents.

Berry Westra and Enri Leufkens (part of the Holland team that won the 1993 Bermuda Bowl) engineered a coup on this hand, as a result of a sub-minimum response. At some tables East-West sacrificed in Five Clubs and went two down; at others East-West defended Four Hearts unavailingly, the diamonds taking care of declarer's second spade loser.

However, Westra had heard his partner at his second turn make a bid to show a good hand with three spades and at least five clubs; so he led the spade seven. Leufkens took the queen, and underled his ace — king of clubs; Westra won the queen of clubs and played a second spade. Now declarer had no chance and had to go one down.

☐ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Hastings

The full line-up for the Hastings Centenary Premier tournament running from December 28, 1995 to January 6, 1996 has now been announced. It is a category 13 all-grandmaster tournament and the strongest all-play-all to have been held in the UK for several years.

The players include Alexander Khalifman (Russia), last year's winner, Thomas Luther from Germany, the British champion Matthew Sadler and grandmasters Julian Hodgson, Tony Miles and Jon Speelman.

If you wish to attend or enter one of the subsidiary tournaments, contact Pam Thomas on 01424 445348.

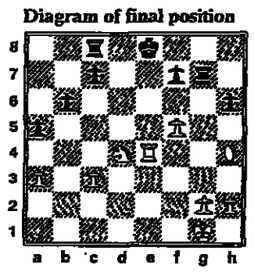
Hastings is the longest running traditional tournament in the world. Here is a brilliant win from one of the Hastings tournaments in the 1930s. It is not often that a former world champion is defeated with such elan.

White: Lilienthal
Black: Capablanca
Hastings 1934

Nimzo-Indian Defence

1	d4	Nf6
2	c4	e6
3	Nc3	Bb4
4	a3	Bxc3+
5	bxc3	b6
6	f3	d5
7	Bg5	h6
8	Bh4	Ba6
9	e4	Bxc4
10	Bxc4	dxc4
11	Qa4+	Qd7
12	Qxc4	Qc6
13	Qd3	Nbd7
14	Ne2	Rd8
15	0-0	a5
16	Qc2	Qc4
17	f4	Rc8
18	f5	e5
19	dxe5	Qxe4
20	exf6	Qxc2
21	fxg7	Rg8
22	Nd4	Qe4
23	Rae1	Nc5
24	Rxe4+	Nxe4
25	Re1	Rxg7
26	Rxe4+	Black resigns

Diagram of final position



Times book

Improve your game with Raymond Keene's book, *The Times Winning Chess*, published by Batsford at £9.99 (credit card orders 01376 327901).

☐ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

CAPERCAILZIE
a. A leather slipper
b. A large bird
c. Grammatical inversion

COPINTANK
a. A silly hat
b. A butt for gutters
c. A Scandinavian think-tank

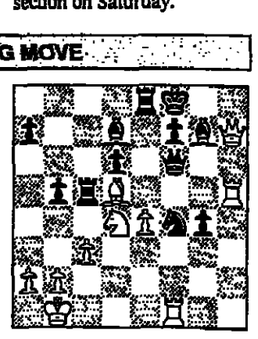
CURASSOW
a. An orange liqueur
b. A big turkey
c. A bustle

CARPENT
a. To be a carpenter
b. To enjoy
c. Stuck in a traffic jam

Answers on page 36

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene



This position is from the game Ginzburg — Rodriguez, Cordoba 1995. Although Black is a piece ahead, he is facing fearsome threats against his kingside. How did he cleverly simplify the position to his advantage?

Solution on page 36

A GOOD RUN

A TOTAL of 38,500 runners has been accepted for the 1996 Flora London marathon, to be held on Sunday, April 21, the Queen's birthday.

The organisers received 66,000 applications. They accepted the number of runners that they know, from past experience, will produce 25,000 finishers. Alan Storey, the general manager, said: "This is as many runners that we can handle in safety and comfort."

The organisers emphasise that anyone who is ill or injured on the day of the race should not run. Any competitor who does not start and informs the organisers will be given an automatic place in the 1997 race. Storey said: "We want no one on the road at the risk of their health."

For first-time runners in the event, Bill O'Connor said: "The most important thing for completing a marathon is regular, steady training, building up to five sessions a week. You should build up gradually to your longest run of between 2½ and 3 hours. This should take place about a month before the event.

"I recommend everyone join a club. Try to have a few road races before the actual marathon, perhaps some 10 Ks, so you get used to the experience of a race."

THE TIMES TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS COMPETITION



Six Sony PlayStations worth £300 to be won

Today *The Times*, continuing our *Twelve Days of Christmas* competition, brings you the chance to win one of six Sony PlayStations worth £300 each. In the traditional carol your true love would have sent you six geese a-laying on the sixth day of Christmas, but your favourite newspaper has chosen something much more useful, especially for keeping your children amused.

The PlayStations are a CD-based video games system which can generate interactive environments at immense speeds and with good sound quality. They also create an arcade quality experience at home but without the expense of drip-feeding coins into a machine.



HOW TO ENTER
Simply identify the following lines from a well known carol:

Bearing gifts, we travel afar
Field and fountain, moor and mountain,
Following yonder star

Call our competition hotline below with your answer. The line is open until midnight tonight. The first correct entries chosen at random will win. Every effort will be made to deliver your prize by Christmas, but we cannot guarantee it. Normal Times Newspapers competition rules apply.

CALL OUR HOTLINE ON 0891 66 55 34

Calls are charged at 50p per minute cheap rate and 45p at all other times

SONY

FOR THE RECORD

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NFL) Pittsburgh 41 New England 27, Green Bay 34 New Orleans 23

American Football Conference

East division	W	L	PF	PA
Buffalo	9	5	310	267
Miami	8	6	337	267
Indianapolis	8	6	297	282
New England	6	9	287	357
NY Jets	3	11	227	349
Central division				
* Pittsburgh	11	4	388	303
Cincinnati	8	8	312	324
Houston	5	9	297	301
Cleveland	4	10	242	322
Jacksonville	3	11	251	339
West division				
* Kansas City	11	3	312	221
Oakland	8	6	310	257
Denver	7	7	340	297
Seattle	7	7	316	330
San Diego	7	7	367	382

National Football Conference

East division	W	L	PF	PA
† Dallas	10	4	377	258
Philadelphia	9	5	283	238
NY Giants	5	9	253	292
Arizona	4	10	242	364
Washington	4	10	271	319
Central division				
† Green Bay	10	5	380	286
Detroit	8	6	355	326
Minnesota	8	6	358	321
Chicago	7	7	341	336
Tampa Bay	7	7	218	267
West division				
San Francisco	10	4	393	200
Atlanta	8	6	317	301
St Louis	7	7	264	342
Carolina	6	8	251	288
New Orleans	6	9	307	348

* Division title † Play-off berth

LAS VEGAS BOWL: Toledo 40 Nevada 37 (OT)

ATHLETICS

BRUSSELS: IAAF World Cross Country challenge: Men: 10.5km: 1, P Tergat (Ken) 30min 31sec, 2, S Korora (Ken) at 1sec, 3, J Kanuki (Ken) 23; 4, P Mosima (Ken) 30; 5, A Mezgebu (Eth) 31. Standings: 1, S Kondra (Ken) 47pts, 2, J Habte (Eth) 37, 3, Philip Mosima (Ken) 36, 4, J Kanuki (Ken) 33, 5, C Monteiro (Por) 27. Women: 6km: 1, A-M Sandell (Fin) 19:18, 2, R Cheruyot (Ken) at 3sec, 3, F Ribeiro (Por), 4, E Fiziatov (Rom) 18, 5, F Fatos (Pol) 24. Standings: 1, R Cheruyot (Ken) 47pts, 2, G Wami (Eth) 37, 3, S Statkuvene (Lith) 31, 4, J Ngotho (Ken) 30, 5, A-M Sandell (Fin) 25

CRYSTAL PALACE: Puma Indoor Grand Prix series: Men: 60m: J Thomas (Woodford Green) 6.8, 60m hurdles: A David (Cambridge Harriers) 8.6, High jump: P Gilding (Brighton & Hove) 1.95m, Long jump: D Halton (Medway) 6.33m, Triple jump: N Thomas (Blackheath) 13.36m, Pole vault: M Dabella (Ill) & J Webb (Belgrave) 4m. Shot: L Newman (Belgrave) 17.80m. Women: 60m, E Renaldo (Aus) 7.9, 60m hurdles: J Bennett (Epsom & Ewell) 9.2, High jump, D Makwaeze (Blackheath) 1.83m, Long jump, Bennett 5.53m, Triple jump: K Skeggs (Ashford) 11.85m, Pole vault: J Whitlow (Spenborough) 32.0m. Shot: L J Oakes (Croydon) 17.93m. 2, M Lynes (Essex Ladies) 16.01m

CROSS COUNTRY: Milton Keynes: Children League: Men: 6km: 1, B Graham (Old Gaytonians) 20min 17sec, 2, J Hyon (Windsor, Slough & Eton) 20.22, 3, T Hyde (Windsor, Slough & Eton) 20.56. Teams: 1, Old Gaytonians 1,353pts, 2, Windsor, Slough & Eton 1,262, 3, Oxford City 1,256. Women: 6km: 1, A Hill (Windsor, Slough & Eton) 20.41, 2, L Dewhurst (Milton Keynes) 20.58, 3, F Garland (Windsor, Slough & Eton) 21.50. Teams: 1, Windsor, Slough & Eton 48, 2, Vauxhall 25, 3, Milton Keynes 21. Wormwood Scrubs: Knight Sports Metropolitan League: Men: 5 miles: 1, J Solly (Herne Hill/Guest) 27.12, 2, P Morris (Hillingdon) 27.48, 3, M Yates (Belgrave/Guest) 27.54. Teams: 1, London Irish 2054pts, 2, Thames Valley Harriers 2005, 3, Hillingdon 1612. Women: 2.5 miles: 1, J Wastell (North London) 16.35, 2, M Carville (Hillingdon) 16.50, 3, H Calder (London Irish) 17.15. Teams: 1, Hillingdon 99pts, 2, Woodford Green 95, 3, North London 92. Scottish inter-district match (Cumbernauld): 10km: 1, P Mowbray (Scottish Universities) 32.25, 2, C Robson (West) 32.32, 3, S Wylie (West) 32.37. Teams: 1, West 34pts, 2, East 76, 3, Scottish Universities 134, 4, Northern Ireland 146, 5, North 156. Ron Hill Southern Women's League: 5km: 1, S McGeorge (Brighton & Hove) 16.55, 2, L Elliott (Shaftesbury Barnet) 17.11, 3, A Whitcombe (Parkside Harrow) 17.23. Teams: 1, Parkside Harrow, 40pts, 2, Medway 56, 3, Highgate 77

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA) Atlanta 93 Denver 86, Utah 83 Miami 74, New York 86 Detroit 82, Chicago 108 LA Lakers 88, Phoenix 111 Dallas 108 (OT), San Antonio 122 Sacramento 106, Golden State 116 Vancouver 85, Charlotte 108 LA Clippers 99

Eastern Conference

Atlantic division	W	L	Pct	GB
Orlando	18	5	.782	—
New York	17	6	.739	1
Miami	12	9	.571	5
Boston	11	10	.524	6
Washington	10	10	.500	6½
New Jersey	9	11	.450	7½
Philadelphia	3	17	.150	13½
Central division				
Chicago	19	2	.905	—
Indiana	11	9	.550	7½
Atlanta	11	12	.478	9
Cleveland	10	11	.476	9
Charlotte	11	13	.458	9½
Detroit	9	13	.409	10½
Milwaukee	6	13	.316	12
Toronto	7	17	.292	13½

Western Conference

Midwest division	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	17	6	.739	—
Utah	16	7	.696	1
San Antonio	13	7	.650	2½
Denver	10	11	.476	6
Dallas	7	14	.333	9
Minnesota	6	13	.316	9
Vancouver	3	20	.130	14
Pacific division				
Seattle	15	7	.682	—
Sacramento	14	7	.667	½
Portland	11	10	.524	3½
LA Lakers	12	12	.500	4
Phoenix	9	11	.450	5
Golden State	8	14	.364	7
LA Clippers	8	15	.348	7½

BUDWEISER LEAGUE. London 83 Manchester 77, Derby 96 Chester 81, Leicester 59 London 79. Hemel Hempstead 71 Leopards 84, Thames Valley 98 Birmingham 83

7UP TROPHY: Semi-final, first leg: Worthing 86 Sheffield 87

BOXING

PHILADELPHIA: Non-title heavyweight bout (12rds): Mike Tyson (US) bt Buster Mathis Jr (US) ko 3rd. World Boxing Council and International Boxing Federation light-middleweight championship (12rds): Terry Norris (US, WBC holder) bt Paul Vaden (US, IBF holder) pts. World Boxing Association light-middleweight championship (12rds): Julio Cesar Vasquez (Arg) bt Carl Daniels (US, holder) rsf 11. Heavyweight (10rds): Hong-Man Kim (S Korea) bt Kabary Salem (Egypt) pts. Heavyweight (10rds): Henry Akinwande (Dulwich) bt Tony Tucker (US) pts

CARDIFF: International Boxing Federation interim world flyweight championship (12rds): Robbie Regan (Blackwood) bt Fernando Montiel (Mex) rsf 3rd. Commonwealth light-middleweight championship (12rds): Chris Pyatt (Leicester) bt Kevin Kelly (Aus, holder) pts. Heavyweight (8rds): Michael Murray (Manchester) bt Keith Fletcher (Reading) rtd 3rd. Light-heavyweight (8rds): Dean Francis (Basingstoke) bt Kid Milo (Birmingham) rsf 3rd, John Marcetta (Aus) bt Tony Booth (Sheffield) rsf 2nd

CRICKET

World Series

Australia v West Indies

ADELAIDE (West Indies won toss): Australia beat West Indies by 124 runs

AUSTRALIA

*M A Taylor b Harper	47
M J Slater b Bishop	32
M E Waugh c Hooper b Harper	53
R T Ponting st Browne b Harper	11
S G Law c Hooper b Harper	13
M G Bevan not out	32
S Lee st Browne b Hooper	39
†I A Healy not out	0
Extras (b 1, lb 7, w 7)	15
Total (6 wkts, 47 overs)	242

S K Warne, C J McDermott and G D McGrath did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-60, 2-108, 3-142, 4-166, 5-168, 6-232

BOWLING: Ambrose 9-0-43-0, Walsh 10-1-46-0, Bishop 8-0-33-1, Simmons 2-0-17-0, Hooper 8-0-49-1, Harper 10-0-40-4

WEST INDIES

P V Simmons c Waugh b McGrath	7
S L Campbell run out	4
*R B Richardson c Healy b McDermott	4
C L Hooper lbw b McDermott	0
S Chanderpaul c Taylor b Waugh	39
J C Adams c Law b Lee	20
R A Harper not out	31
†C O Browne not out	11
Extras (lb 2, w 3)	5
Total (6 wkts, 47 overs)	121

I R Bishop, C E L Ambrose and C A Walsh did not bat

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-8, 2-16, 3-16, 4-17, 5-54, 6-97.

Bowling: McDermott 7-2-8-2, McGrath 5-1-13-1, Law 7-1-23-0, Lee 7 0-20-1, Waugh 10-0-28-1, Warne 7 1-22-0, Bevan 3 0-7-0, Slater 1-1-0-0

Man-of-the-match: M E Waugh

Second one-day international

New Zealand v Pakistan

CHRISTCHURCH (Pakistan won toss): New Zealand beat Pakistan by one wicket

PAKISTAN

Ramiz Raja b Morrison	14
Aamir Sohail c Spearman b Patel	10
Ijaz Ahmed lbw b Cairns	14
Inzamam-ul-Haq b Larsen	80
Salim Malik c sub b Twose	58
*Wasim Akram b Morrison	10
Basit Ali b Morrison	23
†Rashid Latif c Astle b Morrison	11
Waqar Younis b Morrison	0
Mushtaq Ahmed not out	0
Extras (b 5, lb 5, w 2)	12
Total (9 wkts, 50 overs)	232

Aqib Javed did not bat

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-25, 2-27, 3-61, 4-175, 5-185, 6-202, 7-230, 8-231, 9-232

BOWLING: Patel 10-0-41-1, Morrison 10-0-46-5, Cairns 10-1-42-1, Larsen 10-0-49-1, Astle 8-0-32-0, Twose 2-0-12-1

NEW ZEALAND

C M Spearman c Rashid b Aqib	8
N J Astle c Rashid b Aqib	5
B A Young c Wasim b Sohail	34
S P Fleming b Sohail	48
A C Parore c Basit b Wasim	45
C L Cairns c Ramiz b Wasim	54
R G Twose c Mushtaq b Waqar	10
*†L K Germon c Basit b Waqar	5
D N Patel c Ijaz b Waqar	0
G R Larsen not out	14
D K Morrison not out	0
Extras (lb 5, w 5, nb 3)	13
Total (9 wkts, 49.5 overs)	236

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-13, 2-21, 3-98, 4-107, 5-204, 6-214, 7-220, 8-221, 9-221

BOWLING: Aqib 10-0-53-2, Wasim 9.5-0-41-2, Waqar 10-0-55-3, Mushtaq 6-0-30-0, Sohail 10-0-39-2, Salim 4-0-13-0

SHEFFIELD SHIELD: Melbourne: Victoria 430-6 dec and 174-7 dec; Tasmania 290 and 313-6

CASTLE CUP: Cape Town: Free State 247 and 80-5; Western Province 257. Paarl: Boland 209 and 89-4; Border 177. Johannesburg: Northern Transvaal 131 and 191; Transvaal 130 and 83

CYCLING

TIME TRIALS: Manchester and District TTA: 25 miles: 1, G Thomas (Leek CC) 56min 16sec, 2, J Jung (Pro Circuit MTB) 56.24, 3, G Nowland (Team Rapide) 57.36. Team: Rapide 2:55.24 (event record). Chesterfield Spire RC: 10 miles: 1, G Platts (Coalville Wheelers) 20.50, 2, I Cooke (Featherstone RC) 21.45, 3, K Murray (Army CU) 21.50. Fullarton Wheelers (Irvine): 8 miles: 1, G Brown (VC Acton) 19.18, 2, P Renno (Wallasehill CC) 20.15, 3, C Baird (East Kilbride Wh) 20.17. Velo Sportiv (Edinburgh) 10 miles: 1, D Marshall (Bonnyrigg CC) 22.37, 2, D Miller (VC Acton) 23.52, 3, P Black (Edinburgh RC) 24.26

CYCLO-CROSS: New Forest CC (Ringwood) 9 miles, 1, A MacDonald (GS Europa) 50.49, 2, N Parkinson (Royce Utd) at 2.32, 3, A Nixon (Reading University) at 2.58. Diss and District CC (Redgrave): 13.2 miles: 1, B Paton (Octagon VC) 1.00.57, 2, M Farrow (Rennrad Club, Norwich) at 1.32, 3, I Burch (Colchester Rovers) at 2.19. Erewash Valley CRT (Ilkeston) 12 miles: 1, N Craig (Diamond Back) 45.47, 2, D Alexander (Brook CC) at 17sec, 3, J Gould (Ace RT) at 2.30

EQUESTRIANISM

OLYMPIA: International championships: Volvo World Cup qualifier: 1, Gaylord (L Boerbaum, Ger) clear 33.49sec, 2, Everest Dollar Girl (N Skelton, GB) clear 33.50, 3, San Patrignano Wishaway (F Sloothaak, Ger) clear 33.65, 4, Apricot D (H Simon, Aus) clear 34.53. European League standings: 1, Sloothaak 56pts, 2, H Sprunger (Switz) 55, 3, Boerbaum 50. British: 11, M Whitaker 34, 12, D Lampard 32, 16, Skelton 28. Brandy Butter Stakes: 1, Spreho It's Me (Boerbaum) 32.09, 2, Athos Du Masou (R-I Bost, Fr) 32.77, 3, Remville (J Fearn, GB) 33.20. Christmas Cake Stakes: 1, Everest My Measure (M Whitaker, GB) 39.84sec, 2, Totoe (P Charles, Irel) 41.82, 3, Loro Piana Takiki (R Pessoa, Bz) 42.07. Christmas Cracker Stakes: 1, Rainbow de Treion (H Bourdy, Fr) clear 34.14sec, 2, Pyrrhic Electro (P Eriksson, Swe) clear 34.69, 3, Cash (H Simon, Aus) clear 35.32

GOLF

MONTEGO BAY, Jamaica. Johnnie Walker world championship: Third-round scores. 208: F Couples (US) 70, 67, 71. 209: V Singh (Fij) 69, 68, 72. 210: L Roberts (US) 70, 70, 70. 212: M Calcavecchia (US) 72, 70, 70. 213: A Cejka (Ger) 73, 75, 65. W Riley (Aus) 66, 71, 76. 216: B Mayfair (US) 75, 73, 68. P Mickelson (US) 72, 72, 72. 217: P Azinger (US) 75, 74, 68. B Langer (Ger) 71, 73, 73. 218: E Els (SA) 79, 73, 66. P Senior (Aust) 77, 70, 71. 219: S Torrance (GB) 77, 75, 67. D Duval (US) 72, 77, 70. C Montgomerie (GB) 75, 72, 72. 221: N Faldo (GB) 74, 75, 72. 222: L Janzen (US) 75, 73, 74. 223: T Izawa (Japan) 80, 71, 72. 244: J Daly (US) 80, 80, 84. Windrew: A Forsbrand (Swe)

MANILA, Philippine Classic: Final scores. 283: J M Singh (Indo) 66, 73, 72, 73. 284, P Senaprom (Thai) 72, 70, 71, 71. 288: A Aiyal (Indo) 68, 72, 72, 76. Park Nam-sin (Kor) 71, 74, 73, 70. 289: C Espinosa (Mex) 75, 74, 71, 69. 290: A Bonhomme (Aus) 71, 75, 72, 72. J Rempojo (Phil) 74, 75, 70, 71

HOCKEY

NASTRO AZZURRO LEAGUE: Premier League: Chichester 2, Winchester 1. Hampshire/Surrey: London University 4, Solent HC 1, O Mid Whitgiftians 4, O Cranleighans 3, Kent/Sussex 0. Beccehamians 2, Horsham 2, Tunbridge Wells 11, Crawley 0

ADNAMS EAST: Premier division A: Ipswich 0, Bedford Town 1. Premier division B: Luton Town 1, Ipswich & East Suffolk 1, Westcliff 2, Brentwood 3, Luton Town 1, Ipswich & East Suffolk 1, Sudbury 1, Clacton 1

EAST SUPER INDOOR LEAGUE: Spalding 3, Bluehairs 5, Redbridge & Ilford 6, St Albans 8, Spalding 4, Redbridge 8, O Loughtonians 3, Bluehairs 0, St Albans 11, Spalding 3, O Loughtonians 10, Redbridge 8, O Loughtonians 13, Spalding 4, Bluehairs 4, St Albans 10, Bluehairs 8, Redbridge 5, St Albans 6, O Loughtonians 7. Final standings: 1, Old Loughtonians 12pts, 2, St Albans 9, 3, Bluehairs 6

WOMEN'S WEST LEAGUE: North division. Bath 0, Swindon 1, BAC 2, O Bristolians 2, Cirencester 1, Redland 0. Postponed: West Wilts v Frenchay, South Division. Green Dragons 3, Penzance 2, Exeter 0, Bridgwater 1, Chudleigh 0, Winscombe 2, Falmouth 1, Exmouth 5

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Boston 5, Calgary 3, Hartford 3, NY Islanders 3 (OT). Philadelphia 4, Montreal 2, Buffalo 3, New Jersey 2, Florida 7, Tampa Bay 2, Washington 3, NY Rangers 2, St Louis 3, San Jose 2, Toronto 6, Los Angeles 3

Eastern Conference

Atlantic division	W	L	T	Pts	F	A
Florida	23	8	2	48	117	79
NY Rangers	20	10	5	45	124	99
Philadelphia	20	8	4	44	117	75
Washington	14	13	3	31	83	82
Tampa Bay	13	14	5	31	90	107
New Jersey	13	16	3	29	80	80
NY Islanders	7	20	4	18	87	123
Northeast division						
Pittsburgh	20	6	3	43	146	69
Montreal	15	13	2	32	96	97
Buffalo	14	14	3	31	95	99
Boston	12	14	4	28	106	113
Hartford	11	16	3	25	75	95
Ottawa	7	22	1	15	75	120

Western Conference

Central division	W	L	T	Pts	F	A
Detroit	21	7	2	44	118	68
Toronto	16	10	5	37	102	89
St Louis	14	13	5	33	85	89
Winnipeg	14	14	3	31	116	114
Chicago	12	12	7	31	101	98
Dallas	9	13	6	24	78	93
Pacific division						
Colorado	18	10	4	40	139	98
Los Angeles	13	13	6	32	105	105
Anaheim	13	17	3	29	102	103
Edmonton	10	16	6	26	87	124
Vancouver	9	12	8	26	104	112
Calgary	7	18	7	21	88	114
San Jose	6	22	4	16	92	145

BRITISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Cardiff 10, Milton Keynes 5, Durham 6, Sheffield 6, Slough 6. Fife 10. First division: Dumfries 12, Solihull 4, Guildford 8, Bingham 2, Murrayfield 6, Peterborough 8, Paisley 18, Chelmsford 3, Telford 5, Bracknell 5

POWERBOATING

ABU DHABI: World inland circuit championship: 1, J Jones (Wales), 2, D Bertels (Sel), 3, M Roggero (It), 4, M Werner (Ger). Final overall: 1, G Cappellini (It) 107pts; 2, Werner 94, 3, Bertels 72, 4, Jones 64, 5, Roggero 58, 6, W Cabrera (It) 56.

RACKETS

QUEEN'S CLUB: Public Schools Championship: Jim Dear Cup: Second round: J Parker (Tonbridge) bt B Hughes (Cheltenham) 15-4, 15-3, T Bomford (Malvern) bt J Marshall (Wellington) 15-5, 15-7, R Grindy (Charterhouse) bt E Shaw (Cheltenham) 15-6, 12-15, 15-12, R Wilcox (Harrow) bt J Brooker (Cheltenham) 15-1, 15-4, M Grif-fiths-Jones (Wellington) bt G Thompson (Radley) 15-2, 15-0, P Craven (Harrow) bt J Johnson (Tonbridge) 15-7, 15-2, M Chetwood (Marlborough) bt J Whelbourne (Charterhouse) 14-17, 15-12, 15-1, T Harrison (Cheltenham) bt C Fortune (Charterhouse) 15-1, 15-0, J Aylwin (Clifton) bt T Vickers (Winchester) 15-5, 15-6, T Dunbar (Harrow) bt G Touchard (Malvern) 15-0, 15-7, E Cazalet (Eton) bt N Thevathasan (Citizen) 15-8, 15-2

SCHOOLS SPORT

RUGBY UNION

Chislehurst and Sidcup GS 11 Judd 19. Dulwich 20 Ampleforth 12. Eltham 7 Waverley (Sydney) 26. John Fisher 67 Langley Park 0. King's, Macclesfield 66, King Edward's, Aston 0. St Olave's 39 Dartford 8. Watford GS 25 RGS, High Wycombe 7

FOOTBALL

ENGLISH SCHOOLS FUJI FILM TROPHY: Fourth round: Bedford 2 Derby 2, South East Sussex 4 Islington 2, Worthing 5 Woking 0. FA Premier league under-19 Trophy: Cheshire 3 Greater Manchester 2, Durham 3 South Yorkshire 1. Merseyside 2 Lancashire 1. FA Premier league under-16 Trophy: Durham 0 South Yorkshire 0, Inner London 1 Hertfordshire 0, Suffolk 0 Norfolk 2. English Knowles Cup under-14: Suffolk 4 Norfolk 2. English Gillis Shield: Bexley 3 Woking 1. Oxford United Cup: Gosport 1 Swindon 2, Vale of White Horse 8 Banbury 0. London Hawke Trophy under-16: Luton 4 Basildon 2. English Eagles Trophy: Brighton 8 Gravesham 0. Kent Harvey Trophy: North Kent 5 Maidstone 1. Surrey League: Merton 1 Croydon 2. Southern Counties Cup: Bexley 1 Gravesham 1. Hackney 1 Redbridge 1. Kent Fletcher Trophy: Bromley 5 North Kent 2. Hereward Trophy under-14: Nottingham 5 South Leicester 0. Mercury Trophy under-13: Nottingham 3 South Leicester 0. Northern Ment: Leeds 5 Blackburn 2, Trafford 0 Sefton 7. Guggenheim Cup under-14: Gosport 0 Swindon 0. Taylor Trophy: Canterbury 0 Bromley 2. North Kent 8 Maidstone 0. Vernon League: Liverpool 6 St Helens 2. Wirral 5 Bootle 1. Southern league under-15: Southampton 3 Bristol 2, Gosport 2 Swindon 1. Hughes Cup: Basingstoke 1 Southampton 6, Isle of Wight 2 Havant 0. London Gill Cup: Luton 2 South London 1. Inter-association matches: Dartford 5 Bermondsey 2, Chester 2 North Shropshire 3, Hull 1 Rotherham 0, Liverpool 4 Bolton 1. Essex Sevens Championship: Semi-finals: Barking 2 Basildon 1, Newham 2 South East Essex 1. Final: Newham 4 Barking 1. Nottinghamshire Hawkins Under-16 Cup: Final, West Bridgford 2 Gainsbaldi 1. Essex childs under-16 Trophy: Semi-final: St Bonaventure 6 Barking Abbey 0. Inter town challenge under-15: Leeds 5 Blackburn 2, Chester 2 North Shropshire 3, Barnsley 8 Grimsby 1, Hull 1 Rotherham 0

SWIMMING

SHEFFIELD: Uncle Bern's Winter Challenge: Finals: Men: 50m freestyle: 1, M Foster (Cardiff) 21.71sec, 2, A Rapley (Sheffield) 22.51, 3, S Handley (Sheffield) 22.80. 200m breaststroke: 1, N Gillingham (Birmingham) 2.09.21, 2, A Ayers (Swansea) 2.13.85, 3, A Turner (Man Utd Salford) 2.15.64. 100m backstroke: 1, N Willey (Barnet Copthall) 53.70, 2, A Ruckwood (Birmingham) 54.62, 3, S Mellor (Birmingham) 55.81. 200m butterfly: 1, J Hickman (Stockport Metro) 1.56.57, 2, D Grassby (Birmingham) 2.02.47, 3, D Carr (Sheffield) 2.02.77. 400m individual medley: 1, J Hickman (Stockport Metro) 4.16.73, 2, D Warren (Leeds) 4.17.68, 3, B Lafferty (Leeds) 4.19.50

Women: 50m freestyle: 1, K Brenesse (Holl) 26.00, 2, S Ralph (Newcastle) 26.04, 3, C Willmoth (Barnet Copthall) 26.46. 50m breaststroke: 1, J King (Waltham Forest) 32.10, 2, S Brownsdon (Coventry) 32.38, 3, N Giguere (Can) 33.42. 100m backstroke: 1, L Findlay (Wycombe D) 1.01.81, 2, E Tatum (Portsmouth N) 1.02.42, 3, N Osher (Ealing) 1.02.77. 100m butterfly: 1, S Greenep (Ipswich) 1.01.22, 2, C Foot (York) 1.01.25, 3, S Purvis (Derwentside) 1.02.41. 4 x 200m freestyle relay: 1, Portsmouth Northsea 8.16.68 (British club record), 2, Leeds 8.18.04, 3, Bradford 8.25.49

Western Conference

Central division	W	L	T	Pts	F	A
Detroit	21	7	2	44	118	68
Toronto	16	10	5	37	102	89
St Louis	14	13	5	33	85	89
Winnipeg	14	14	3	31	116	114
Chicago	12	12	7	31	101	98
Dallas	9	13	6	24	78	93
Pacific division						
Colorado	18	10	4	40	139	98
Los Angeles	13	13	6	32	105	105
Anaheim	13	17	3	29	102	103
Edmonton	10	16	6	26	87	124
Vancouver	9	12	8	26	104	112
Calgary	7	18	7	21	88	114
San Jose	6	22	4	16	92	145

BRITISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Cardiff 10, Milton Keynes 5, Durham 6, Sheffield 6, Slough 6. Fife 10. First division: Dumfries 12, Solihull 4, Guildford 8, Bingham 2, Murrayfield 6, Peterborough 8, Paisley 18, Chelmsford 3, Telford 5, Bracknell 5

POWERBOATING

ABU DHABI: World inland circuit championship: 1, J Jones (Wales), 2, D Bertels (Sel), 3, M Roggero (It), 4, M Werner (Ger). Final overall: 1, G Cappellini (It) 107pts; 2, Werner 94, 3, Bertels 72, 4, Jones 64, 5, Roggero 58, 6, W Cabrera (It) 56.

RACKETS

QUEEN'S CLUB: Public Schools Championship: Jim Dear Cup: Second round: J Parker (Tonbridge) bt B Hughes (Cheltenham) 15-4, 15-3, T Bomford (Malvern) bt J Marshall (Wellington) 15-5, 15-7, R Grindy (Charterhouse) bt E Shaw (Cheltenham) 15-6, 12-15, 15-12, R Wilcox (Harrow) bt J Brooker (Cheltenham) 15-1, 15-4, M Griffiths-Jones (Wellington) bt G Thompson (Radley) 15-2, 15-0, P Craven (Harrow) bt J Johnson (Tonbridge) 15-7, 15-2, M Chetwood (Marlborough) bt J Whelbourne (Charterhouse) 14-17, 15-12, 15-1, T Harrison (Cheltenham) bt C Fortune (Charterhouse) 15-1, 15-0, J Aylwin (Clifton) bt T Vickers (Winchester) 15-5, 15-6, T Dunbar (Harrow) bt G Touchard (Malvern) 15-0, 15-7, E Cazalet (Eton) bt N Thevathasan (Citizen) 15-8, 15-2

SCHOOLS SPORT

RUGBY UNION

Chislehurst and Sidcup GS 11 Judd 19. Dulwich 20 Ampleforth 12. Eltham 7 Waverley (Sydney) 26. John Fisher 67 Langley Park 0. King's, Macclesfield 66, King Edward's, Aston 0. St Olave's 39 Dartford 8. Watford GS 25 RGS, High Wycombe 7

FOOTBALL

ENGLISH SCHOOLS FUJI FILM TROPHY: Fourth round: Bedford 2 Derby 2, South East Sussex 4 Islington 2, Worthing 5 Woking 0. FA Premier league under-19 Trophy: Cheshire 3 Greater Manchester 2, Durham 3 South Yorkshire 1. Merseyside 2 Lancashire 1. FA Premier league under-16 Trophy: Durham 0 South Yorkshire 0, Inner London 1 Hertfordshire 0, Suffolk 0 Norfolk 2. English Knowles Cup under-14: Suffolk 4 Norfolk 2. English Gillis Shield: Bexley 3 Woking 1. Oxford United Cup: Gosport 1 Swindon 2, Vale of White Horse 8 Banbury 0. London Hawke Trophy under-16: Luton 4 Basildon 2. English Eagles Trophy: Brighton 8 Gravesham 0. Kent Harvey Trophy: North Kent 5 Maidstone 1. Surrey League: Merton 1 Croydon 2. Southern Counties Cup: Bexley 1 Gravesham 1. Hackney 1 Redbridge 1. Kent Fletcher Trophy: Bromley 5 North Kent 2. Hereward Trophy under-14: Nottingham 5 South Leicester 0. Mercury Trophy under-13: Nottingham 3 South Leicester 0. Northern Ment: Leeds 5 Blackburn 2, Trafford 0 Sefton 7. Guggenheim Cup under-14: Gosport 0 Swindon 0. Taylor Trophy: Canterbury 0 Bromley 2. North Kent 8 Maidstone 0. Vernon League: Liverpool 6 St Helens 2. Wirral 5 Bootle 1. Southern league under-15: Southampton 3 Bristol 2, Gosport 2 Swindon 1. Hughes Cup: Basingstoke 1 Southampton 6, Isle of Wight 2 Havant 0. London Gill Cup: Luton 2 South London 1. Inter-association matches: Dartford 5 Bermondsey 2, Chester 2 North Shropshire 3, Hull 1 Rotherham 0, Liverpool 4 Bolton 1. Essex Sevens Championship: Semi-finals: Barking 2 Basildon 1, Newham 2 South East Essex 1. Final: Newham 4 Barking 1. Nottinghamshire Hawkins Under-16 Cup: Final, West Bridgford 2 Gainsbaldi 1. Essex childs under-16 Trophy: Semi-final: St Bonaventure 6 Barking Abbey 0. Inter town challenge under-15: Leeds 5 Blackburn 2, Chester 2 North Shropshire 3, Barnsley 8 Grimsby 1, Hull 1 Rotherham 0

SWIMMING

SHEFFIELD: Uncle Bern's Winter Challenge: Finals: Men: 50m freestyle: 1, M Foster (Cardiff) 21.71sec, 2, A Rapley (Sheffield) 22.51, 3, S Handley (Sheffield) 22.80. 200m breaststroke: 1, N Gillingham (Birmingham) 2.09.21, 2, A Ayers (Swansea) 2.13.85, 3, A Turner (Man Utd Salford) 2.15.64. 100m backstroke: 1, N Willey (Barnet Copthall) 53.70, 2, A Ruckwood (Birmingham) 54.62, 3, S Mellor (Birmingham) 55.81. 200m butterfly: 1, J Hickman (Stockport Metro) 1.56.57, 2, D Grassby (Birmingham) 2.02.47, 3, D Carr (Sheffield) 2.02.77. 400m individual medley: 1, J Hickman (Stockport Metro) 4.16.73, 2, D Warren (Leeds) 4.17.68, 3, B Lafferty (Leeds) 4.19.50

Women: 50m freestyle: 1, K Brenesse (Holl) 26.00, 2, S Ralph (Newcastle) 26.04, 3, C Willmoth (Barnet Copthall) 26.46. 50m breaststroke: 1, J King (Waltham Forest) 32.10, 2, S Brownsdon (Coventry) 32.38, 3, N Giguere (Can) 33.42. 100m backstroke: 1, L Findlay (Wycombe D) 1.01.81, 2, E Tatum (Portsmouth N) 1.02.42, 3, N Osher (Ealing) 1.02.77. 100m butterfly: 1, S Greenep (Ipswich) 1.01.22, 2, C Foot (York) 1.01.25, 3, S Purvis (Derwentside) 1.02.41. 4 x 200m freestyle relay: 1, Portsmouth Northsea 8.16.68 (British club record), 2, Leeds 8.18.04, 3, Bradford 8.25.49

RUGBY UNION

Save and Prosper *international match*

England 27 Western Samoa 9

England: Tries: Dallaglio, Underwood. Con: Grayson. Pens: Grayson 5. Western Samoa: Pens: Kellett 3.

(at Twickenham)

CIS county championship

North

Northumberland 32 Cumbria 10

Northumberland: Tries: Carr 2, Hebbert, Ponton, Turnbull. Cons: Belgian 2. Pen: Belgian. Cumbria: Try: Milns. Con: Southwell. Pen: Southwell.

(at Newcastle)

Yorkshire 27 Durham 22

Yorkshire: Tries: Anderson 2, Atkinson, Howarth, Overend. Con: Howarth. Durham: Tries: Ridley 2, Oliphant, Wrigley. Con: Murray

(at Keighley)

CIS under-21 county championship

North

Northumberland 23 Cumbria 13

Sun Alliance colts county final

E Midlands 13 Hertfordshire 8

East Midlands: Try: Oliver. Pens: Blowers 2. Hertfordshire: Try: Storey. Pen: Twyning.

(at Twickenham)

Midlands semi-final

Warwickshire 57 Staffordshire 7

Warwickshire: Tries: Carter, Fountaine, Gardner, Milner, Palmer, Parton, Riley, Warr 2. Cons: M Gallagher 6. Staffordshire

Only minor changes allowed to rail services

Regina v Director of Passenger Rail Franchising, Ex parte Save Our Railways and Others

Regina v Same and Others

Before Sir Thomas Bingham, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Waite and Lord Justice Otton

[Judgment December 15]

The instructions issued by the Secretary of State for Transport to the Director of Passenger Rail Franchising, that for the initial letting of franchises the specification of minimum service levels for railway passenger services was to be based on that provided by British Rail immediately prior to franchising, enabled him to make relatively minor changes to the pre-franchising specification, but did not permit him to depart significantly or substantially from it.

Where therefore the reductions of service specified in the director's statement of the minimum levels of passenger service requirements for certain lines were not relatively minor he had not complied with the instructions given him and had acted in breach of his statutory duty.

The Court of Appeal so held: (i) granting leave to appeal and allowing an appeal by Save Our Railways, Mark Stanley Walker, Graham Richard Larkbey, Peter Fox and Keith Patrick Bill, who in proceedings for judicial review had challenged decisions of the Franchising Director made on September 14, 1995 issuing passenger service requirements in relation to rail services provided by Inter City East Coast Ltd, Gatwick Express Ltd, Midland Main Line Ltd and Network South Central Ltd; (ii) granting leave to appeal and dismissing an appeal by Save Our Railways, Richard Delahoy, Southend-on-Sea Rail Travellers Association, Frederick Donald Allen, Gordon James, Alex Wilks, Philip Foggitt and John Antell, who had challenged by way of judicial review the Franchising Director's decision issuing on May 16, 1995 passenger service requirements in relation to rail services operated by Great Western Trains Co Ltd, South West Trains Ltd and LTS Rail Ltd.

On December 8 Mr Justice Macpherson of Cluny had dismissed both applications (*The Times* December 12).

Mr Owen Davies for the applicants: Mr Jeremy Sullivan, QC, for the franchising director.

THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS, giving the judgment of the court, said that the issue arose under the Railways Act 1993, which established a statutory scheme for transferring the operation of rail passenger services into private ownership.

Section 5, the legal effect of which seemed refreshingly clear, lay at the heart of the appeal. Under that section the franchising director's statutory duty was to fulfil the objectives given him by the secretary of state in accordance with such instructions and guidance as might be given to him by the secretary of state from time to time.

The procedure in subsection (3) for laying before Parliament, and publishing, any statement of objectives made it plain that particular significance was attached to them. In seeking to achieve those objectives, the franchising director had to act in accordance with such instructions and guidance as he might be given by the secretary of state.

There was no reason to doubt that "instructions" and "guidance" bore their ordinary meaning: an instruction was a direction with which the recipient had to comply; guidance was advice which the recipient should heed and respect, it should ordinarily be followed but need not if there were special reasons for not doing so.

The response to the secretary of state's instructions and guidance formed part of the franchising director's statutory duty.

The court referred to:

1 *Objectives, Instructions and Guidance for the Franchising Director*, issued by the secretary of state on March 22, 1994, and in particular to the instruction in paragraph 18 that for the initial letting of franchises the franchising director's specification of minimum service levels was to be based on that being provided by British Rail immediately prior to franchising;

2 To the guidance in paragraph 23 that although service specifications set for the initial franchises "must be based" on the timetable being operated by BR immediately prior to franchising, over time franchised services could be tailored more closely to demand.

The court accepted the applicants' argument that in reading the *Objectives, Instructions and Guidance* it was not construing a statute, nor even subordinate legislation. The document had to be read in a practical, down to earth way, as a communication by a secretary of state to a responsible public official.

The language used was not to be invested with more precision than it would naturally bear. Paragraph 18 had to be read in the context of the whole document and of the Act.

The franchising director's statutory duty was to exercise his functions in the manner which he considered best calculated to fulfil the objectives given him in accordance with the secretary of state's instructions and guidance.

Thus the objectives, instructions and guidance defined and circumscribed his statutory duty. The court could not abdicate its responsibility to give the document its proper meaning: it meant what it meant, not what anyone would like it to mean.

"Based on" was not a term of art, nor was it exact: it permitted some latitude. It was obvious that every train timetabled by BR did not need to continue to run. There might be changes, and within limits it was for the franchising director to rule on the extent. His was the primary judgment.

But there was a limit to the changes which might be made without ceasing to comply with the instruction in paragraph 18 and the guidance in paragraph 23. The changes had to be marginal, not significant or substantial. The document could not be read as a warrant for more than relatively minor change.

Give or take relatively minor changes the minimum service level specified was, as the court understood the instruction, to correspond reasonably closely with the pre-franchising BR specification.

The court referred to evidence given on behalf of the franchising director from which his approach seemed clear: he had been cautious in including loss-making services in his minimum service level specification because a subsidy would be payable to the operator required to run it.

That was an intelligible and in no way an irrational approach, but it was not an approach which gave effect to the instruction in paragraph 18 or the guidance in paragraph 23. No one reading the *Objectives, Instructions and Guidance* could have appreciated that that approach would have been adopted or that the subsidy payment factor would be given so much weight.

The court referred to the limited factual argument presented to it from which it was clear that reductions to services had been specified. The court did not consider that the figures in relation to Great Western Trains Ltd and the South West Trains Ltd compelled the conclusion that the franchising director was in breach of his statutory duty whether as a result of misdirection or mere non-compliance.

It was, however, otherwise in the cases of the other lines. There, making all possible allowances in the franchising director's favour, the court felt bound to conclude that he had not correctly understood, or if he had, he had not complied with, the secretary of state's instruction.

The court then considered the question of delay in making the applications for judicial review, with reference to section 31(6) of the Supreme Court Act 1981, Order 53, rule 4(1) of the Rules of the Supreme Court and *de Smith, Woolf and Jowell: Judicial Review of Administrative Action* (5th edition (1995) paragraphs 15-019 et seq, pp665-667 and 20-008 et seq, pp809-810).

With regard to the first application the relevant passenger service requirement was issued on May 16, 1995 and application was made on August 16, 1995. The court did not think that the applicants could be criticised for failing to apply prior to May 16 while the consultation period was still in progress. Had they done so they would have run a real risk of failing on the ground of prematurity.

However, there was an imperative need for the applicants to take action with the utmost promptness after issue of the service requirements. The delay of three months was in all the circumstances undue. While the reasons for the delay explained it, they did not excuse it.

It was clear that the grant of certiorari or mandamus now following that undue delay would be detrimental to good administration.

The application for that relief would be refused on that ground. It followed that the appeal against the judge's decision would be dismissed although in the case of LTS Rail, if asked, the court would consider making a declaration.

In the second case the relevant service requirement was issued on September 14 and application was lodged on October 20. The court did not regard that delay as undue.

Nor was it apparent that the grant of relief would serve no useful purpose because the secretary of state might simply amend his instructions. If he did, the applicants' complaint might be defeated. Whether he did so was a matter for him.

Although differing from a judge greatly experienced in the field, the court agreed with his view that judicial review should be reserved for clear cases of unlawfulness.

Solicitors: Leigh Day & Co; Treasury Solicitor.

Withdrawing notice to treat after possession

Regina v Northumbrian Water Ltd, Ex parte Able UK Ltd

Before Mr Justice Carnwath

[Judgment December 1]

An authority acquiring land under a compulsory purchase order was entitled to withdraw its notice to treat under section 31 of the Land Compensation Act 1961, even after it had entered into possession of the land.

Mr Justice Carnwath so stated in a reserved judgment in the Queen's Bench Division when dismissing an application for judicial review by Able UK Ltd of a decision by Northumbrian Water Ltd of November 9, 1994 to withdraw a notice to treat in respect of the applicant's land at Stephenson Industrial Estate, Hartlepool dated August 14, 1992 and to request the return of an advance payment of compensation in the sum of £491,490 made in February 1993.

Section 31 of the 1961 Act provides: "(1) Where a claimant has delivered such notice as is mentioned in paragraph (b) of subsection 1 of section 4 of the Act, the acquiring authority may, at any time within six weeks after the delivery thereof, withdraw any notice to treat which has been served on him or on any other person interested in the land authorised to be acquired."

Section 52 of the Land Compensation Act 1973 provides: "(1) Where an acquiring authority have taken possession of any land the authority shall, if a request in that behalf is made in accordance with subsection (2) below, make an advance payment on account of any compensation by them for the compulsory acquisition of any interest in that land.

"(5) Where the amount . . . of any payment under this section made on the basis of the acquiring authority's estimate of the compensation exceeds the compensation as finally determined or agreed, the excess shall be repaid; and if after any payment under this section has been made to any person it is discovered that he was not entitled to it, the amount of the payment shall be recoverable by the acquiring authority."

Mr Anthony Anderson, QC and Mr Nicholas Burton for Able UK; Mr Robert McCracken for Northumbrian Water.

MR JUSTICE CARNWATH said that the case raised two novel questions. The first was whether the acquiring authority was entitled to withdraw its notice to treat, under section 31 of the 1961 Act, even after it had entered into possession of the land.

If so, where the authority had made an advance payment of compensation under section 52 of the 1973 Act, what were the respective rights of the parties following withdrawal of the notice to treat? Section 52 contained no express provision for what was to happen if a notice to treat was withdrawn following the making of an advance payment.

Right to withdraw notice to treat

In the water company's submission, the position under section 31 was clear. It was not disputed that the notice of withdrawal was served within six weeks of the notice of claim, as provided for by section 4(1)(b).

In those circumstances section 31(1) gave an unqualified right to withdraw the notice to treat. It was to be contrasted with section 31(2) which specifically provided that the right to withdraw a notice to treat following determination by the Lands Tribunal applied "unless the authority had entered into possession of the land by virtue of the notice".

There was no such qualification under subsection (1). No hardship would result from that approach, since by subsection (3), Able was entitled to claim compensation for any loss or expenses caused by giving and withdrawing the notice.

The water company accepted that, where possession had been taken following notice to treat, any loss resulting from that abortive period of possession would properly fall within the loss caused by the giving of the notice to treat, and would be compensatable.

Able contested that view by inviting the court to consider the historical development of the relevant compulsory purchase law. The 1961 Act should be read in the light of the earlier statutes, having regard to the principle that any changes would have been limited to those permitted under the Consolidation of Enactments (Procedure) Act 1949.

In his Lordship's judgment, the answer was to be found in the words of section 31. Even though it was a consolidation statute, the ordinary approach to construction applied. It was only permissible to look outside the statute if there was some substantial difficulty or ambiguity: see *Farrell v Alexander* ([1977] AC 59). His Lordship agreed with the water company's submission that section 31 was perfectly clear.

The right to withdraw under subsection (1), unlike that under subsection (2), was not limited in a case where possession had been taken. Of course, mere withdrawal of the notice to treat did not result in possession being recovered by the owner. But it removed his entitlement to compensation in respect of acquisition.

That step having been taken by the authority, it clearly could have no right to retain the land. Whether in different circumstances the owner could refuse to take it back was not a question which arose in the present case. The result produced no anomaly or absurdity in the present case. It left the owners of the land, unaffected by any works of the authority, and with a claim to compensation for any loss.

It accorded with the principle of equivalence which underlay the statutory code: see *Director of Buildings and Lands v Shun Fung Ironworks Ltd* ([1995] 2 WLR 404). It also gave effect to the parliamentary intention, implicit in section 31, that authorities should be able to make an informed decision as to the likely cost of the acquisition before they were finally committed.

His Lordship accepted that potential anomalies could arise in hypothetical sets of circumstances. However, it was not helpful to try to envisage how the scheme would work in such cases.

It did not appear that problems had arisen in practice as the present case was the first in which the point had needed to be considered. The authority was under its ordinary duty to exercise its powers reasonably, particularly where compulsory acquisition of land was available, and was subject to judicial review.

His Lordship also accepted that it was not wholly clear why a distinction was drawn between subsection (1) and subsection (2). An explanation might be found in the nature of the rights of the respective parties at the different stages.

The notice of entry and possession under it did not affect the title. Following determination of compensation however, the parties were in the position of parties to a contract of the sale of land and entitled to specific performance. The authority became owners in equity.

It might have been thought inappropriate to provide for the right of withdrawal when not only possession had been taken but title had passed. In any event, even if one took account of the history of the legislation, it did not provide a conclusive answer.

Repayment of compensation under section 52

As a claim under section 31 had not yet been made, it was inappropriate to make any formal declaration. However, since the matter had been argued, his Lordship would make certain observations.

Mr McCracken submitted that he was entitled to recover the excess of the advance payment, if any, over the compensation as finally determined, either under the specific provisions of subsection (5), or failing that, under the general law of restitution.

The first submission depended on taking a broad view of subsection (5), so that "compensation" there referred to could include compensation under section 31(3) of the 1961 Act.

Mr Anderson submitted that "compensation" in subsection (5) must mean the same as "compensation" in subsection (1), that is "compensation . . . for the compulsory acquisition of any interest in that land". Compensation under section 31 was not compensation for the acquisition of land, but for the non-acquisition of land.

Furthermore, the authority's right to repayment under the second part of subsection (5) only arose where it was found that the applicant "was" not entitled to compensation, that is, at the time of the advance payment.

Since in the present case the advance payment was properly made at a time when the authority had taken, and still retained, possession, the conditions of subsection (5) were not satisfied.

His Lordship agreed that compensation in both subsection (1) and subsection (5) of section 52 was directed to ordinary compensation for the acquisition of the land. He doubted whether the draftsman had in mind the possibility of compensation for an abortive notice to treat under section 31.

However, Mr Anderson's reading of the second part of subsection (5) was too narrow. Looking at the subsection as a whole, the obvious purpose was to contrast the position at the time of the advance payment with the position when compensation was finally determined or agreed.

If at that time it was found that there was either an excess or no entitlement, then the right to payment arose. If that were wrong, then the principles of restitution were broad enough to provide an appropriate remedy.

Given the owner's rights to specific compensation under section 31, there was no reason why the law should allow him to retain a sum which was paid on an assumption which had been falsified by events, and which did not represent his true loss.

Solicitors: Ward Hadaway, Newcastle upon Tyne; Wheldon Housby & Scott, South Shields.

Power to see magistrate in chambers during trial

Regina v Nottingham Magistrates' Court, Ex parte Furnell and Another

Before Lord Justice Schiemann and Mr Justice Holland

[Judgment December 8]

The inherent discretion of a magistrate to permit representations in chambers during the course of a trial should be exercised sparingly and with caution in view of his role as fact finder.

Careful consideration had to be given to the procedure with all parties made aware of the hearing and represented in chambers and a contemporaneous note should be taken, normally by the magistrate's clerk.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so stated when dismissing an application for judicial review by Geoffrey Furnell and Diana Marshall of their conviction by the Nottingham Stipendiary Magistrate, Mr Nuttall, on April 25, 1995 of affray.

Mr Nicholas Paul for the applicants; Miss Caroline Bradley for the prosecution: the magistrate did not appear and was not represented.

MR JUSTICE HOLLAND said that the applicants were charged with two co-accused with affray. In the course of the trial the prosecution indicated a guilty plea by Mr Furnell to a lesser charge would be acceptable.

The co-accused's solicitor wished to consult the magistrate as to whether such a plea could be accepted without a fresh charge being laid. All the advocates and the clerk went into the magistrate's room.

There was no satisfactory contemporary record of what was discussed. No shorthand writer was present and no tape recording made.

The trial continued and the applicants were subsequently convicted. The essential issue was whether there was such an irregularity in the course of the trial to found certiorari.

Mr Paul submitted that the fact of any of the trial taking place in chambers in the absence of the applicants was an irregularity; a fortiori, when the proceedings in chambers included a reference by the stipendiary, as fact finder, to the impression made on him of the evidence; a fortiori, when no contemporary note was taken. Whether or not justice was done, it had to be seen to be done.

There was no case directly on the point.

In his Lordship's judgment, the position was:

inherent discretion of a bench, whether lay or stipendiary, must permit the reception, during the course of a trial, of representatives in private without adjournment; to do otherwise could inhibit the fair and expeditious disposal of the trial.

Freedom of access was identified in *R v Turner* ([1970] 2 QB 321, 324). All that case said was that the discretion had to be exercised sparingly and with caution, particularly for a lay bench safely to permit such a course. The step was unusual and there was the potential for injustice.

Further, whether lay or stipendiary, a magistrate must reflect on his role as fact finder. Would that be compromised by receiving mid-trial representations?

2 There must be careful consideration as to the procedure. All parties must know the hearing was taking place, and unless the case involved public interest immunity, all parties must be represented in chambers.

In particular, steps must be taken to take a note contemporaneously and as carefully as possible. The note would normally be taken by the clerk: see *R v Cullen* ([1984] 81 Cr App R 17).

In the present case there was no apparent reason why any technical problem regarding the plea should not have been heard in open court. Further, the hearing was not recorded by contemporaneous note.

However, his Lordship could find no material irregularity to justify certiorari and no evidence there was impropriety. Nothing irregular had happened in the magistrate's room and if the proceedings were faithfully and accurately reported to the applicants, there was no appearance of injustice.

Lord Justice Schiemann agreed.

Solicitors: Warren & Allen, Nottingham: CPS, Nottingham.

Child has no appeal against tribunal decision

S v Special Educational Needs Tribunal and Another

Before Lord Justice Leggatt, Lord Justice Millett and Sir Ralph Gibson

[Judgment December 13]

Only the parent of a child was entitled to bring an appeal to the Special Educational Needs Tribunal and not the child himself. Consequently the High Court did not have jurisdiction to entertain an appeal made by a child from the tribunal's decision.

The Court of Appeal so held dismissing the appeal of the child against the dismissal by Mr Justice Latham (*The Times* October 5) of an appeal against the dismissal of an appeal by the tribunal on February 2 when it refused to amend the name of the school specified in the statement of special educational needs.

Mr Philip Engelman for the child; Mr Richard McManus for the tribunal; Miss Tanya Callman for the local authority.

LORD JUSTICE LEGGATT said that the judge held that the only right of appeal to the tribunal was as provided for in sections 169, 170 and 172 of the Education Act 1993.

The effect of those provisions was that the child's parent could appeal to the tribunal in respect of any decision not to make a statement.

To the like effect were the regulations made under section 180 of the 1993 Act, the Special Educational Needs Tribunal Regulations (SI 1994 No 1910), and most telling in the present context was the definition in regulation 2 of "child" as meaning "the child in respect of whom the appeal is brought".

Mr Engelman, properly acknowledging that the parent was consistently identified in the statutory provisions as the person bringing an appeal, submitted that that did not preclude a child as falling within the term "party to proceedings" in section 11(1) of the Tribunals and Enquiries Act 1992 when an appeal was made from a tribunal to the High Court.

He contended, inter alia, that the child plainly was a party to the proceedings in question.

In his Lordship's view that appeared to beg the question to which the submission related: a party, as normally understood, was a party to litigation playing a prescribed part. The child here was not such a party.

He contended further that there was no policy reason to exclude the child as a party before the tribunal; but in his Lordship's view that could not be valid as there was no provision for a child to be party to proceedings.

Mr Engelman also contended that the true analysis was the parent acted as the child's agent so that there was no reason why he could not bring an appeal to the High Court.

In his Lordship's judgment, the term "party" in section 11(1) of the 1992 Act was to be treated as a litigant and not a beneficiary to litigation. It was not helpful to show that a parent was acting as agent. The court therefore had no jurisdiction to entertain the present appeal.

In the court below the opportunity given for the mother to be substituted as a party was deliberately declined.

Moreover, the judge heard the appeal on its merits, and, as far as his Lordship could tell, reached the right conclusions on all the issues before him.

However, he had been wrong to entertain the appeal. Although no reason was given why the mother refused to be joined as a party, his Lordship inferred that she was not entitled to legal aid.

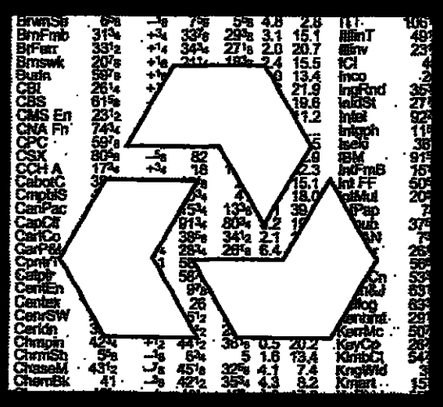
The legal aid fund had thus incurred costs it would not otherwise have borne.

The court would refuse to give any judgment on the merits. Any such judgment would be obiter, hypothetical and at the expense of the fund.

Lord Justice Millett and Sir Ralph Gibson agreed.

Solicitors: Teacher Stern Selby; Treasury Solicitor; Mr Colin T. Wilson, Westminster.

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Next you will head for Canberra stopping off for a barbecue lunch at Burbong Sheep Station on the way. Your holiday continues with a visit to Thredbo, Australia's premier alpine ski village, before heading off towards Melbourne via Brown Brothers Winery. A visit to Phillip Island to see the largest colony of fairy penguins is an ideal way to end your trip.

DEPARTURES: April 6, 13, and 27, May 4 and 11, 1996. The price for the land tour with our 10% discount is £792 per person, down from £880, and does not include return flights.

TODAY'S PRIZE: To win today's holiday answer the question below and phone our competition hotline: 0891 40 50 34 which is open until midnight tonight. The winner will be chosen at random from all correct entries received. Normal *Times* Newspapers competition rules apply.

1. What is the name of Australia's premier alpine ski village?

Calls are charged at 39p per minute cheap rate and 49p at all other times.

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Capitalisation, week's change

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on *the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and* price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

BANKS

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
8,719.00	ABN-AMRO	2875	+ 28½	4.5	13.6
8,362.00	Abbey Nat	635	+ 9	3.8	12.7
2,388.40	Allied Irish	358	- 2	4.0	10.4
4,113.40	Aus New Z	396	+ 2	5.1	25.0
14,682.40	Bank America	4137½	- 206½		
3,610.60	Bank Scotland	386½	+ 34½	2.5	13.6
12,489.80	Barclays	1179½	+ 2½	3.7	10.5
2,282.20	Bk of Ireland	480		3.5	9.6
142.50	Cater Allen	437	- 4	8.8	7.2
16,130.80	Lloyds	41439½	- 412½		
394.40	Close Bros	823	- 1	3.4	14.3
5,469.00	Commerzbk	2182½	- 3½	3.5	
38,809.20	Dai Ichi Kan Y	12434½	- 21½	0.4	
14,987.60	Deutsche Bk	3153½	- 27½	2.4	
126.00	Espirito Sante	584½	- 37½	2.4	7.8
42,117.30	Fuji Bank Y	14504½	- 22½	0.8	
321.10	Gerard Natl	453		6.2	14.6
353.60	Hambros	2300	- 3	5.1	
8,562.80	HSBC	998	+ 2	3.5	13.0
17,341.60	HSBC HK	977	+ 1½	5.1	15.7
304.50	Irish Perm	400	+ 7	3.0	9.2
24.40	Joseph (LH)	460	+ 1½	5.1	15.7
36.20	King Shaxson	141	+ 4	8.2	10.6
11,335.70	Lloyds	854	- 6½	3.9	13.2
8,310.20	Nat Aust Bk	982	- 1	6.8	8.9
11,545.40	Nat West	653	- 3	4.3	10.1
125.00	Ottoman Bank	2600		6.5	3.4
74.40	Rea Brothers	50	+ 4	2.5	20.8
4,912.60	Rnl Bk Scot	808	+ 41	3.4	13.5
2,020.40	Schroders	1338	+ 5	1.3	15.1
499.40	Schroders NV	1135	- 5	1.6	16.2
217.40	Singer & Friedl	1170	+ 1	3.9	13.2
5,567.80	Stand Chart	574	+ 13	2.0	14.4
6,189.30	TSB	404	- 2	3.6	14.1
85.80	Union	100	- 4	3.8	
7,277.80	Wells Fargo	5142	- 93½	2.1	
4,862.40	Westpac	2695	- ½	5.1	
23.20	Wstmnst	270	+ 2	5.3	15.4

BREWERIES

73.10	Assd Dmcq	265	+ 27	..	0.5
6,358.60	Bass	732½	+ 7½	4.0	
546.00	Boddington	449	+ 5	2.5	23.1
38.60	Burtwood Brwl	176		3.8	17.0
39.20	Chrlstgr P A'	198	+ 5	3.1	
84.90	Fstr Sm 'A'	416	+ 2	2.6	17.7
1,599.70	Greenalls Grp	541	+ 8	3.3	
366.30	Greene King	628	- 1	2.9	16.7
57.20	Henry Hutch	286		4.5	
3.59	Hexagone	155		4.5	10.9
96.30	Holt J	3100	- 5	2.2	16.5
204.10	Marstonsltf	376		2.7	15.9
274.50	Morton Thrupp	306	- ½	3.0	14.4
144.20	Mortlnd	530	+ ½	2.8	
8.01	Paramount	6¾	+ ¼	4.1	10.8
108.20	Regnis Invs	585	+ 80	1.3	27.0
6,811.00	SA Brewnerss	2312½	+ 31½	1.5	31.1
3,789.90	Scot & Newc	615	+ 19½	3.6	16.4
	Scot & Newc PP	350			
79.70	Tom Cobleigh	200	+ 5	1.7	32.4
350.10	Vaux Group	369	- 14	5.3	12.7
233.20	Wetherspoon JD\	639	- 1	1.6	26.0
3,186.00	Whitbread'A'	861	+ 10	3.9	16.3
378.80	Wolverhmptn O	561	+ 20	3.4	
119.90	Yates Bros	304	- 1	1.3	26.9
12.60	Young A I	436		4.3	17.7

BUILDING & CONSTRUCT

54.20	Abbey	140		4.7	9.3
65.90	Allard	294	+ 11½	2.7	15.2
194.50	Amec	96	+ 4	3.9	20.2
36.50	Andrews Sykes	255	- 16		
153.00	Ashtead	167	- 9	1.8	18.5
15.20	Ayrshire	26		11.8	5.6
2.82	Bailey (Benj) Con	25		5.3	6.1
17.20	Barcrft	37	+ 1	1.0	
444.40	Barratt Devs	241	+ 15	3.9	15.0
488.50	Beazer Homes	174	+ 9	4.2	12.5
249.20	Bellway	371	- 3	3.9	11.8
7.67	Bellwinch	17		1.5	9.1
379.00	Berkeley Gp	489	+ 6	2.0	15.1
26.60	Bett Bros	177		3.9	6.2
52.10	Bovis (Henry)	193		4.7	9.0
19.90	Brandon Hirst	43		4.7	16.0
5.24	Britannia Grp	23	- 3	8.7	4.5
4.48	Br Bldg & Eng	40		25.0	5.5
306.20	Bryant	109½	+ 4½	5.8	10.0
47.80	CALA	111		3.6	10.7
2.59	Campbll & Arm	110	- 2		14.3
6.03	Clarke T	49		10.4	17.6
37.30	Costain	72			
46.60	Countryside	67	- 14	5.9	
58.40	Crest Nicholson	99	- 3	4.2	8.3
14.20	Cyrus	59		5.9	7.0
16.50	Eve Group	168	+ 3	6.7	9.0
16.90	Galliford	19	-	6.6	13.8
74.50	Gleeson (MJ)	138		2.5	14.0
4.62	Green (Ernest)	60		10.6	25.1
71.50	Hanscomb (Lond)	272		1.5	12.0
372.30	Hawden-Stuart	134½	- 3½	2.6	14.3
54.90	Higgs & Hill	63	- 10	3.8	10.5
3.96	Howard Hldgs	15		6.7	17.5
8.12	James	12½	- ½		
80.10	Kier	107	+ 9	3.4	13.9
115.70	Laing (J)	252	- 3	4.5	31.1
41.80	Laing (John) Cv Pf	104	+ 1	7.7	
6.77	Lovell (TJ)	17			
46.50	Maunders (J)	186		3.8	9.9
98.80	McAlpine (A)	143	+ 8	5.2	16.3
65.60	McCarthy & S	66½		3.8	
24.80	Morgan Sindall	78		1.4	
81.50	Mowlem Cons	122	- 1	4.1	11.9
103.10	Murrin (J)	59	+ 2	4.2	29.4
231.50	Persimmon	198	+ 16	6.0	13.7
30.80	Pochin	180		2.0	12.2
86.70	Prowting	111		4.3	14.8
26.30	Raine Ind	14	- ½	3.6	
4.94	Secure Retire	48	- 1	2.5	9.1
296.80	Redrow	134	+ 8	2.9	12.4
36.60	Sherlk Hldgs	37	- 1½	2.7	
4.54	Skerne	72		6.9	17.0
114.00	Spandex	253		1.0	22.5
43.50	Tay Homes	148	- 2	5.9	10.2
459.00	Taylor Woodrw	119	+ 1	2.4	22.7
149.70	Tilbury Douglas	468		8.3	15.1
9.31	Tones Hire	92		5.4	13.7
8.32	Trenchwood	10			4.1
7.27	Ivy Group	10½	-	6.0	14.7
33.70	Vibroplant	73	- 1	6.9	5.5
62.20	Wantlesswd	100	- 1½	5.6	9.3
24.20	Ward Hldgs	46		4.1	10.3
11.30	Watts Blake	49	+ 4	4.1	13.3
18.50	Wiggins	3¾	+ ¼		25.8
308.40	Wilcon (C)	156	+ 4	3.6	11.6
328.60	Wilcon Homes	362	+ 9	3.6	12.8
480.40	Wimpey G	133	+ 3	5.2	19.4

BUILDING MATERIALS

9.06	Albrighton	12½	- ½		
167.70	Alumasc	415	+ 5	2.2	17.9
1,582.50	BPB Indy	298	+ 5½	3.8	13.8
47.50	Baggeridge Brk	117	- 2	3.4	
178.10	Bardon	32	+ 6½	7.8	15.6
11.20	Brockhwy	45		1.1	
2,407.60	Blue Circle	3026½	- 1½	4.5	14.9
21.50	Brandon PLC	77		10.7	
18.70	Br Dredging	187		6.6	14.0
1,726.50	CRH	490	+ 21	2.1	18.4
2.28	Calvbwood Hby	36		3.3	
79.00	Cape	148		14.8	11.3
1,049.30	Caradon	175	- 10	6.5	14.9
189.90	Casadon pl	105½	+ 1	8.6	
7.63	Chatelain Gp	19		13.2	
3.05	Dyson (JBJ)	185		2.7	15.3
11.40	Dyson 'A'	89		6.0	6.9
29.70	Eclipse Blinds	89	- 4		
51.00	Epwin	256	- 1	4.7	12.7
17.00	Flare	133	+ 13		
1.58	Gibbs & Dandy	58		4.3	
178.00	Grahams Gp	199	+ 1	3.4	17.4
119.90	Halstead (J)	360		2.7	17.1
743.60	Hepworth	265	- 2	6.1	14.1
3.81	Hewetson	41		7.9	8.5
224.10	Heywd Wms	231	+ 1	3.7	11.9
115.00	Ibstock	89½		3.3	11.8
35.80	Johnston	335		3.9	7.8
25.40	Lilleshall	169	- 1	6.5	10.6
379.00	Marley	173		8.2	8.9
175.00	Marshalls	141	-	6.5	10.0
484.10	Meyer Intl	362	+ 12	3.8	14.5
144.40	Newman Tnks	113	- 10	7.6	10.2
139.80	Norcros	80	+ 3		
5.93	Phoenix Timbr	17		7.1	16.2
2,089.10	Pilkington'A'	2529½	+ 14½	3.0	16.3
267.70	Polypipe	170	+ 10	2.0	15.9
2,486.90	RMC Gp	1004	+ 7	2.7	13.7
1.20	Ramac	3			
1,956.60	Redland	357	+ 3	5.5	11.5
17.00	Ruabon	85	+ 1	9.7	9.3
69.90	Rutland	149		5.3	11.7
869.70	Rugby Group	105	- 1½	4.3	13.5
26.30	Russell (A)	113		3.9	15.5
187.00	Sabre	297	- 2	3.7	11.5
2.69	SMP	11½			
33.10	Sharpe & Fisher	157		4.0	12.5
111.20	Speng Rmn	34½	- ½	2.6	
943.70	Tarmac	183	+ 18	6.7	15.4
11.30	Tilon	103	- 14	5.9	
360.90	Travis Perkins	350	+ 8	3.2	14.7
3.27	Tridorf	30		31	17.8
1.65	Wakefordcon	150	+ 9		
461.60	Wickes	129	+ 2	1.9	22.9
2,484.00	Wimpey(J)	450	+ 16½	2.7	15.1

BUSINESS SERVICES

6.69	Anglo Utd	6¾	- ¼		
24.60	App Hnks	83	- 7		
3.44	Bailey (CH)	6¾			
4.11	Black Arrow	39	- 1	8.9	6.8
3.61	Br Bloodstock	88			28.4
2.15	Card Gp	3¾			
2.78	Chemex	2	- ¼	2.7	
17.70	Cordit	153	- 2	7.4	
75.80	Filtrona	257		1.4	17.6
5.15	Hackney	32			29.1
102.30	Hemstock	430	+ 14	2.6	16.4
62.10	Lesprt	94	- 6½	3.2	16.7
27.70	Metro Gp	134		5.8	8.8
91.00	Pnto-Mstr	150	- 12	4.2	13.2
17.90	Plant & Genl	56	- 1	6.0	8.1
1.85	Rodime	1¼			
166.80	Shanks & McEwan	195	- 2	4.7	13.5
40.50	Sinclair (Wm)	106	- 3½	5.1	12.5
1,241.40	Waste Mgt Intl	331	- 13		12.5
44.50	Waste Recyg	134	- ½	7.1	28.1

CHEMICALS

492.80	Albright & Wil	134	+ 1	4.9	18.2
686.90	Allied Colloids	120	+ 3	2.6	19.6
32.40	Amber Ind]	207	- 1	3.4	13.5
31.10	Amberley Gp	72		2.3	20.6
8,969.60	BASF Dm	2143½	- 218½	3.1	
4,257.90	BOC	905	+ 14	3.7	17.4
433.00	BTP	264	+ 2	3.5	15.1
11,702.30	Bayer DM50	2108½	- 159½	3.5	
104.30	Biagolas	144	- 1		13.2
46.60	Bond Chems	69	+ 1	5.8	18.9
465.30	Br Vita	212	+ 10	4.7	13.5
65.50	Canning (W)	230		4.2	14.8
1,587.60	Courtaulds	392	+ 12	5.6	17.9
446.20	Croda	305	+ 10	3.4	14.8
30.20	Docttor	208	- 6	3.5	13.5
245.60	Ellis & Everard	249	- 1	4.2	14.5
32.40	Exss Colorit	85	- 1	2.8	20.7
18.40	Gibbon	182	- 13	4.5	14.2
139.00	Hickson	79	- 2	6.6	7.5
9,957.90	Hoechst	6168½	- 228½	3.1	
776.90	Holliday Chem	169	- 3	3.7	12.0
5,303.40	ICI	731½	- 10½	4.8	14.0
383.00	Inspec	330	+ 2	1.8	23.0
379.20	Ivlon	107	- 3	5.4	12.3
1,288.00	Laporte	867	+ 57	4.3	13.7
28.90	MTM	78	- 2	2.6	14.0
113.00	Mandoe	284	- 4	4.9	12.0
8.92	Melrose	37		4.0	13.5
21,705.90	Mondelson	466	- 5	5.0	18.3
89.00	Norsk	365		1.7	26.7
517.30	Scapa	217		3.6	15.5
15.30	Scndlfic Speclt	27		2.2	33.3
8,846.40	Tokyo Chem	10111½	- 124½	0.9	13.6
56.50	Wellington Hldg	248	- 7	3.4	19.0
73.70	Whitefldge H	183	- 7	2.8	16.7
118.50	Yorks Chem	258	- 8	4.2	12.7
312.00	Yule Catto	308	- 2	3.0	16.3

DISTRIBUTORS

30.70	ASI Lsct	93	- 1	5.4	9.5
19.90	Adam & Harvey	463	- 12	5.3	9.1
6.85	Alexander	17	- 2½	5.1	25.0
61.80	Appleyard	89	- 2	6.7	10.0
0.19	Ash Br Eng	1			4.1
140.70	BOC Lsnsd	5.35	- 1.25	4.6	15.4
53.50	Bunzl	93			
5.84	Blenvlg Power]	10½	- ½	4.5	
1.26	Bogod 'A'	3			
195.70	Brammer	431		3.9	16.6
4.81	Bridgend Gp]	17½			1.4
19.50	Brit Fibrgls	27	- 1	5.9	12.5
8.25	Cathrys	150	- 5	6.9	16.9
10.30	Cmbrai Mn	75½	- 1½	2.7	8.4
24.50	Cook (DC)	57½		3.8	20.4
473.60	Comet	570	- 3	3.8	8.2
38.50	Dag Mnton	106	- 2	5.1	10.4
72.10	Dennaps Et	503	- 1	1.9	11.1
709.90	Diplomat	375½	- 22½	4.8	
1,525.10	Electrocomponents	868	+ 11	2.1	24.4
153.92	Evered, Elec	261	+ 3½	2.8	16.3
34.30	Forstrbus	70	- 2	14.6	4.8
52.00	Fothrgsm Utd	97	+ ½	6.7	6.3
91.50	Frasr Hamshw	266	- 1	6.8	8.9
988.60	Gamett Elect	720½	+ 46½	1.7	27.1
19.20	Flr Indstr	66		8.2	10.0
18.60	Gardner	17½	- 1	5.9	7.7
11.00	Glenchestln	35½	- 3½	10	
7.91	Gowrings	96		3.3	14.3
23.80	Harris (Philip)	218	+ 11	4.6	12.7
81.60	Headlam	301	+ 1	4.3	12.7
261.40	Hepsby	496	- 3	3.5	18.5
4.18	Hodgsn Tesh	138		5.6	25.5
69.80	ISA Intl	266	+ 1	3.6	14.9
1,730.70	Inchcape]	2333	+ 44½	3.0	21.1
6.48	Jacks (Wm)	60		16	11.4
297.40	Jnsn-Fz	172	- 7	3.3	14.7
341.50	Lex Service	332	+ 10	6.0	16.1
29.10	Lookers	149		6.4	8.7
18.80	Matsya Gp	17½	- ½	5.2	15.5
49.70	Meiklesurr	8½	- ½	0.8	18.8
20.60	Micklets	33	+ 2		5.5
51.30	Nichlsn	493	- 2	1.9	16.8
43.90	Northumbsr	268	+ 13	0.9	20.7
13.20	PCT	137		7.8	9.8
104.80	Pendragon	273	- 1	3.8	14.3
37.20	Perry Gp	147	- 2	6.5	11.5
32.30	Quncts Group	140			11.9
16.50	REA	185		2.7	22.0
4.87	Rence	8½	- ½		
25.10	Ronson	56		2.8	11.4
5.17	Rsscc Gp	9½			
52.20	SEP Ind	168	- 3½	3.6	
30.40	Sudrs	129½	- 1½		7.1
33.00	TLC	71	+ 1	3.3	12.1
130.00	Time Products]	249	- 1	4.6	14.6
126.70	Vasty (Ricd)	273	- 7	2.6	17.3
45.50	Wholesale Fttgs	126		4.7	20.3
51.60	Wmdsmrt	69½	- 2½	3.8	13.2
31.70	Wyko	78	- 1	2.0	17.5
19.10	Young (A)	115		4.3	

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

97.30	Abwd	115	- 2	8.3	9.5
468.50	Amtrgrds	293	+ 1	10.9	12.8
16,762.50	Bnkrs Hall	1697	+ 15	2.6	21.4
12,086.10	BTR	570½	- 1	5.4	14.5
17,034.90	BAT'I	552½	+ 2	5.1	12.5
277.40	Berisford Intl	183	- 6	5.1	
115.40	Bibby (J)\	115	- 1	6.2	
1,351.30	Bradley Inv	50½	+ 1	2.4	2.8
208.20	Charter	615	+ 13	3.8	13.2
2,452.60	Cookson	2540½	- 17½	3.1	18.7
93.10	Crampton Hdg	134		5.5	15.1
9,240.50	Dalgety	1029½	+ 1½	4.0	10.3
1,037.30	Hanson Cnsltd	145	+ 2	7.7	15.5
13,634.30	Hnch Wmpp	376½	+ ½	2.1	20.1
3,022.30	Jardine Math	1420	- 2½	3.9	8.4
4.86	Jourdan (Tj)	27		5.6	7.3
1,340.20	Lonrho	172½	- 3½	2.3	23.8
103.40	McLeod Russel]	169	- 2	4.7	
38.70	Porter Chadbrn	41			14.0
7.91	Sovereign	96		3.3	14.3
34.50	Rogers	146	- 1	7.1	10.0
3,509.60	Sdne Darbyr]	166	+ 3	3.6	24.6
226.20	Standrdpt	197	- 4	5.4	13.5
199.60	Sulzr	170	- 3½	7.1	11.3
427.50	TT Group	267	- 2	2.7	15.0
2,329.50	Tomkins	2287½	+ 69½	3.9	15.6
264.00	Transtgas H	245½	- 5		
57.40	Unidare	295		7.7	
94.30	Wardle Storeyr]	370	- 15	5.8	19.7
478.20	Wassall	247	+ 8	2.3	14.0
82.50	Watercrft	185		4.3	14.3
1,884.70	Williams Hldg	321½	- 3½	5.3	15.0

ELECTRICITY

1,394.80	East Midlands	703	+ 2½	5.3	9.4
2,426.00	London Elec	672½	+ 4½	5.9	8.8
1,102.80	Manweb	1024	- 2	5.9	9.3
1,452.90	Midlands	781½	- 6	6.2	9.5
3,432.70	Midland Grid	2050	- 2	6.7	9.1
5,192.80	National Power	635	- 22	4.7	11.3
5,781.80	Nat Power PP]	145	- 23	4.6	9.3
591.50	Northern Elec'r	588	+ 3½	7.4	5.6
1,590.10	Norweb	1018	- 3	5.5	10.7
3,722.20	PowerGen]	512	- 13	4.2	9.4
1,312.90	PowerGen PP]	190	- 15	4.0	11.4
1,371.60	Hydro-Elect	357	- 6	5.1	9.7
3,408.60	Scottish Power	353	- 6	5.4	10.5
1,391.80	Scotsmd	522	+ 8½	3.5	11.2
872.30	Sth Wales	646	+ 9½	4.8	8.7
2,487.60	Southern Elec	908	- 25	4.5	11.6
1,226.40	Yorkshire Elec	664	- 22½	6.7	7.1

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

110.40	Acal]	572	+ 4½	1.7	30.8
207.60	Acorn Comp	231	+ 7		
106.80	Admiral	853	+ 56	1.2	22.4
151.50	Alba	278	+ 10	2.5	17.9
295.30	Amstrad	2270½	- 11	4.4	
25.30	Arlen	34	- 1	2.2	11.8
367.20	Astec	119	- 1½	1.4	18.5
139.50	Aztec	515		0.8	22.9
966.10	BICC	2220	- 3	3.8	15.5
215.00	Brmpton Hdg	215	- 20	5.9	11.5
139.70	Black	455	+ 5	3.6	
620.40	Boothorpe	424	- 2	2.7	19.3
6.57	Bulgin (AF) 'A'	24½	- ½	2.0	8.7
26.00	CSE Micro	134	- 1	3.7	14.7
24.60	Chmsfd Hldgs	27		6.1	7.6
56.40	Chlndstr	22½	- ½	1.8	30.9
13.30	Clayhithe	72		5.5	12.0
111.40	Clay Elect	47	- 2	4.0	
92.10	Critchley	644	+ 13	2.1	21.9
1,040.10	Dwtn Bs Syst	324	- 7	0.5	29.3
566.10	Delta	389	+ 6	4.9	13.7
108.90	Domino	406	+ 5	3.1	13.4
93.60	Dowding Mlls;	64		5.1	17.2
164.00	Dwch	3563	+ 88	0.6	33.6
1,978.20	Electrolux 'B'	2778½	- 69½	4.4	4.3
34.10	Emess	32	+ ½	0.4	
11,034.10	Ericsson 'B'	1262½	- 175	3.4	8.8
36.00	Eurocony	74		4.0	
509.60	Exmthrm	569	- 1	1.4	25.8
436.00	Fairey Group	533	+ 9	1.7	22.4
189.70	Filtronic Com	452	- 25	0.2	72.3
91.80	Forward Gpr	675	+ 65½	1.2	28.0
31.70	Forward Tech	92	+ 1	3.4	12.8
8,865.40	GEC	323	+ 9	4.5	14.9
62.70	Gnrchy	128		6.4	11.7
40.10	Ind Control	99	+ 2	4.5	19.7
10.30	Ionica	28	- ½	3.1	32.4
1,504.20	Logica	1106	+ 10	2.2	17.6
153.50	Lsi Sciences	88		6.2	9.1
420.40	Lon Ind	124	- 2	1.5	
58.50	Mesbr-SNA	79	+ 1	3.1	32.4
0.95	Nanomr Health	1¾	+ ¼		0.9
38.50	Oakley Cas	375	- 21	1.4	13.6
133.20	Scholl	195	- 10	4.2	
169.30	Seton Health	385		2.4	19.2
31.40	Shedd Dlng	109	+ 45	2.2	26.4
2,111.70	Smith & Nephw	191½	+ 1	3.5	22.1
3.80	Spectralnyx	19			0.7
240.50	Talaxe	191		1.6	13.2
241.70	Thorn EMI	265	- 2	3.6	14.2
209.90	West Hillcare	328		2.1	14.6

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

3,252.60	AB Foods	361½	- 1	3.1	12.9
101.90	Acsion & Hutch	237	- 31	4.9	
362.40	Albert Fisher]	409½	- 2½	9.5	12.1
1,110.10	Bertis (C C)	2727	- 1	2.9	15.2
67.00	Barr (AG)	340		2.9	15.2
14.30	Bassnds Crsp	28	+ 2		
776.10	Bestmr]	344	+ 3	8.2	17.5
19.80	Bonfrwick	34		4.8	24.2
40.20	Br Arnmast	369	- 1½	4.1	53.7
5,415.80	Cadbury-Schwp	546½	+ 1	3.6	19.6
22.30	Cans Milling	318		3.4	
67.10	Cavaghan	100		2.8	13.2
37.70	Cranswick	185	+ 2	2.7	17.1
4,164.30	Dalgety	635	+ 18	3.5	12.1
4.48	Daniels S	45		0.5	
346.90	Devro	257	+ 6	3.6	16.2
24.40	Ercsnd	96	+ 1	5.2	8.6
4.45	Farmrghtnt	17	- 1		
64.80	Finlay (Jmsstr)	65		6.1	25.8
70.20	Global	16	- 1	4.1	11.4
481.30	Greencore	564	+ 13	2.7	
218.60	Hazlewood Fds]	164	+ 5½	2.7	7.7
1,117.30	Hillsdown	160	+ 8	7.2	10.7
119.10	Hotcstr]	30½	+ 2½	3.3	35.0
23.10	JU Group	58	+ 3	11.0	9.6
50.40	Linton Pres	311	+ 4	4.0	7.6
121.40	Matthews (B)	88		4.5	13.2
91.80	Nichols (Vm)	233		3.3	15.0
973.10	Nthn Foods	168	- 4	6.7	
7.06	Nthmbrio Fn	11½			8.6
1.78	Pascoe's	140			
7.50	Pengelly (Jn)	9½			
84.70	Perkins Food	68	- 3	8.2	9.5
43.30	SeaPerfect	88	- 1		
6.41	Smithy Fam	149	+ 2	2.9	11.9
11.40	Sons Food]	33	- 7	11.4	11.0
1,796.40	Tate & Lyle]	1453½	+ 14	4.4	9.5
32.80	Tnsit	342	+ 21	1.9	15.4
963.60	Unigate]	409	- 4	5.7	14.0
10,768.10	Unilever]	1301	- 36	2.6	15.9
14,532.00	Unilever (UK)	10486½	- 47½	2.6	16.0
1,332.30	Utd Biscuits]	252	- 2	6.6

RESULTS AND STATISTICS

TODAY

Interims: Brasway, British Thornton, Crest Packaging, Edinburgh Japan Trust, Foreign & Colonial Smaller Companies, Ingham, I&S Optimum Income, Ivory & Sime, Jones & Shipman, Lawrence, Midorgate IT, Mosaic Investments, Rolfe & Nolan, Schroder Split Fund, Victoria Carpet, Wintrust. **Finals:** Aberdeen Trust, Fairbairn European Smaller, Kunick. **Economic statistics:** Public sector borrowing requirement (November).

TOMORROW

Interims: CH Bailey, Compco Holdings, Henderson Highland Trust (Cl5), Howden Group, Murray Smaller Markets, Radiant Metal, Templeton Emerging Markets. **Finals:** Eurotherm, First Choice Holidays, Windsor. **Economic statistics:** none scheduled.

WEDNESDAY

Interims: Abtrust Preferred, Artesian Estates, Electric & General IT, M&G Second Dual Trust, Murray Split Capital. **Finals:** Legal & General Recovery, Loades, Rodime. **Economic statistics:** Balance of trade with countries outside the EC (November); provisional estimates of M4 and counterparts (November).

THURSDAY

Interims: Winchester Multimedia. **Finals:** Abtrust Emerging Economies IT, Burndene Investments, St David's IT. **Economic statistics:** UK national accounts (Q3); UK balance of payments (Q3); motor vehicle production (November).

FRIDAY

Interims: none announced. **Finals:** Kelsey Industries. **Economic statistics:** capital expenditure (Q3 revised).

SUNDAY TIPS

The Sunday Times: **Buy** Westbury, Bardon, MFI; **Sell** Superscape. *The Sunday Telegraph:* **Buy** View Inn, Conrad Ritblat; **Sell:** Vega. *The Observer:* **Buy** Asda; **Sell** HP Bulmer. *Independent on Sunday:* **Buy** Cobham; **Sell** Eurotunnel. *The Mail on Sunday:* **Buy** Clydeport; **Sell** MAI.

COMPANIES — MICHAEL CLARK



Life is no holiday for First Choice

FIRST CHOICE: Full-year figures from First Choice, Britain's third-largest tour operator, will tomorrow highlight the severe problems confronting the holiday market. Last month the group followed close on the heels of Airtours, the industry leader, by issuing a profits warning. A disastrous summer for the holiday companies means that pre-tax profits have been forecast to fall from £16.3 million to £1 million.

Things have certainly been tough for the operators with the hot summer resulting in fewer families taking holidays abroad, while intense competition among the big players has pared margins down to the bone.

Early indications suggest that next year will also be tough, with early bookings depressed. As a result the group, whose chief executive is Francis Baron, has already announced plans to shed 300 jobs and reduce capacity by about 7 per cent.

EUROTHERM: Full-year figures tomorrow are expected to show the group continuing to reap the benefits of the efforts of Claes Hultman, chief executive, in the early Nineties. He promised to get the group back on its feet and generating organic growth. He has been true to his word. Eurotherm is now one of Britain's most successful electronic companies enjoying strong earnings growth. Andrew Bryant, who follows electronics companies for NatWest Securities, forecasts a rise in pre-tax profits from £26.1 million to £34 million, with earnings per share up from 19.4p to 25.2p. At the halfway stage, the group hoisted profits 31 per cent, to £15.8 million.

Mr Hultman has transformed Eurotherm into an efficient outfit, having stripped out much of the cost, and demand for industrial controls, mainly for use in production lines, is booming. North America remains the group's biggest market with sales boosted by the acquisition in March of Systems Automation and Services. In geographical terms, the rest of the business is fairly evenly spread. Shareholders will be rewarded with an increase in dividend from 5.5p to 7p.

MOSAIC INVESTMENTS: First appearances could prove deceptive when the struggling group unveils half-year figures today. David Williams has pulled out all the stops since rejoining the company and taking over as chairman in February 1994. But the final outcome is likely to result in further hefty losses, reflecting goodwill write-offs during the final part of restructuring. These are expected to amount to about £3 million after the disposal of seven businesses since Mr Williams moved into the hot seat.

Brokers say that the worst of the restructuring is now over and that the company is in sound shape. There may be some good news for shareholders, with a possible resumption in dividend payments. The main parts of the business still intact are the optical distribution division and a 30 per cent stake in Copyright, which was floated off last year.



Francis Baron, of First Choice, the tour operator, which could be facing another tough year

ECONOMIC CALENDAR

US may hold fire on rates

THE prime focus of this week will be across the Atlantic, where the Federal Open Market Committee meets tomorrow amid speculation that it will agree another cut in US interest rates. Most economists believe that there is a clear case for another monetary easing on economic grounds.

Preliminary third-quarter US gross domestic product figures are published the same day. Although the picture seems weak, there is a considerable variance of interpretation of recent figures and the Fed may want to wait until the situation is clearer.

The other main sticking points are the ongoing budget negotiations between President Clinton and the Republican leadership of Congress. The Fed has virtually made the resolution of this stand-off a precondition for lower rates.

In Britain, after an eventful post-Budget period packed with statistics and the first interest rate reduction for nearly two years, the calendar is beginning to wind down for Christmas. Today, November figures for public borrowing are announced. The consensus of market forecasts compiled by MMS International is for a public sector borrowing requirement of £2.8 billion, compared with last month's repayment of £1.3 billion. PSBR figures start to lose their headline value at this stage of the year, with the markets focusing on the outturn for the next tax year.

On Wednesday, bank and building society lending figures and M4 money supply for November are published, as well as November figures for non-European Union trade. The deficit is expected to be £950 million, compared with a £1.19 billion shortfall in October. On Thursday, there is another revision of third-quarter gross domestic product figures, which are expected to show an unchanged estimate of 0.4 per cent growth. Again, the markets are now more interested to see preliminary figures for the final quarter.

JANET BUSH

Sequel for Ken and Eddie Show

As we near the end of the second year of the Bank of England's new role in setting monetary policy, it is a good time to take stock. The new regime scored at least one major success, producing a rise in interest rates last September at an appropriately early stage of economic upswing, in stark contrast with normal UK practice. It successfully fought off at least one major challenge a few weeks ago, when Tory MPs were demanding a traditional, instant post-Budget rate cut that would have made nonsense of Eddie George's monthly meetings with the Chancellor. On the debit side, the Bank tendency to over-predict inflation undermined its central bank technical credentials. Meanwhile, Kenneth Clarke's overruling of calls by Mr George for tightening during this year seemed to hint that the new regime was more a change of form than of substance.

The approach of the two-year anniversary offers the Treasury and the Bank a chance to confirm that the changes are substantive, by making further, evolutionary changes to strengthen the credibility of the Bank's internal decision-making. A looming general election, with the possibility of uncertainty over monetary policy before and after it, increases impetus for action.

Two aspects of the Bank's decision-making are well exposed in public. They are inflation forecasts by the chief economist's department and the Governor's view, as put in minutes of the monthly meetings with the Chancellor, often backed by interviews or leaks. However, the internal decision-making process in between is opaque. Aside from the Governor and the chief economist, senior officials contributing to it do not seek public exposure.

If the aim is to improve this process, it makes sense to look at what happens in the great independent central banks of the world, even though there is no question of the Bank becoming independent in the short term. In the Bundesbank and the Fed, monetary policy is set by a group of people integrated into the political structure of society. In Germany, the affiliations are explicit, with most council members having clear membership of political parties, often having held senior political office. In the US, leading figures on the FOMC generally also have such affiliations, although they are little emphasised and are diluted by a substantial number of more neutral members.

These political affiliations affect policy-making subtly. There is no crude voting on party lines. Indeed, members of the Bundesbank council and of the FOMC rapidly acquire a "corporate culture" that ensures a display of total or virtual unanimity much of the time. Yet, there is a form of political representation here, sometimes expressed publicly in speeches, sometimes in debate at policy meetings, and sometimes in the votes themselves. As a result, the central bank acquires a certain political legitimacy.

This gives the Bundesbank and the Fed their strength. It is not without periodic challenge, of course, for example via the rogue bills to curtail Fed power sometimes tabled in Congress or (more deadly) arrangements like the ERM and pan-German monetary union. Surviving such attacks more or less unscathed adds to a central bank's status.

The Bank of England now needs to move gently down this route. The exact method does not matter: a subset of the Court of Directors might be made responsible for monetary policy, or there might be a new monetary committee. The crucial thing is to have a group of people seen to represent the various political strands of British society. Like FOMC or Bundesbank council members, they would come to combine allegiance to the central bank and its monetary aims with being, in a broad sense, political representatives. The appointment of a new Deputy Governor earlier this year may come to be seen as the start of this process, but only if followed by other appointments giving a clear sense of balance.

Such evolution would, in time, give the Bank a political right to a credible alternative voice in monetary policy. Ultimately, this would be reflected in a lower risk premium on UK interest rates. Merely continuing monthly meetings between Governor and Chancellor will never achieve this.

GILES KEATING
CS First Boston

GILT-EDGED

Merger of Lloyds and TSB nears

THE High Court will be asked today to approve a scheme of arrangement enabling Lloyds Bank to complete its £13.6 billion merger with TSB (Patricia Tehan writes).

Shareholders of the two banks gave their approval at extraordinary meetings last month. Lloyds needs the court's approval for the cancellation of existing Lloyds Bank shares and their replacement by shares in Lloyds TSB.

Each Lloyds shareholder will receive 2.704 shares for every share they hold, while TSB shareholders will receive one share.

Subject to approval, the deal will become effective on December 28, when dealings in the new Lloyds TSB shares will begin. A special cash dividend of 68.3p per share will be paid on January 18 to TSB shareholders and new Lloyds TSB share certificates will be sent out. TSB share certificates will remain valid.

Japan likely to overshoot deadline on loans crisis

FROM A CORRESPONDENT IN TOKYO

INFIGHTING among Japanese financial institutions seems certain to scupper the Government's promise to devise a solution to the problem of bad loans by Wednesday.

Anxiety over the Government's ability to tackle the crippling loans held by beleaguered mortgage firms has raised fears for Tokyo's stock market, already nervous about the stability of Japan's financial system.

"If the Government fails to come up with a scheme to solve the housing loan problem, it is easy to imagine that stock prices will fall," said Katsuhito Sasajima, an analyst at Nikko Research Centre.

"The stock market has long expected the scheme to be announced by December 20, and this expectation has supported the recovery in stock prices," he said.



Takemura: different date

On Friday, Masayoshi Takemura, the Finance Minister, said: "We still don't have clear provisions yet, but we will make efforts to seek a solution by our initial target date of December 20 or our final due date of the end of this year." Analysts said that he appeared to be toning down remarks he has made previously that Japan would decide by December 20.

Tomiichi Murayama, the Prime Minister, has also said a decision would be made by that date.

"It is an international pledge that Japan will make a decision on the housing loan companies by December 20, and if it fails the major problem is how foreign investors will judge the failure and how they will react," said Masaaki Higashida, a strategist at Nomura Securities.

The seven ailing mortgage firms that are at the heart of the nation's multibillion-pound bad debt problem are to be wound up by their founding shareholders, principally banks.

The Finance Ministry estimates that 6.27 trillion yen (£40.26 billion) of unrecoverable loans at the mortgage firms will be written off initially, and this could eventually reach Y7.51 trillion.

CHANGE ON WEEK

THE POUND

US dollar
1.5393 (+0.0116)
German mark
2.2209 (+0.0083)
Exchange index
83.0 (+0.5)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share
2633.3 (+3.2)
FT-SE 100
3642.6 (+12.6)
New York Dow Jones
5176.73 (+19.87)
Tokyo Nikkei Avge
19346.55 (+59.58)

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.18	2.02
Austria Sch	16.64	15.14
Belgium Fr	48.66	44.36
Canada $	2.225	2.065
Cyprus Cyp£ .	0.748	0.693
Denmark Kr ...	9.22	8.42
Finland Mkk ...	7.27	6.62
France Fr	8.06	7.41
Germany Dm .	2.37	2.16
Greece Dr	388.00	363.00
Hong Kong $	12.57	11.57
Ireland Pt	1.02	0.94
Israel Shk	5.1900	4.5400
Italy Lira	2572.00	2417.00
Japan Yen	170.90	154.90
Malta	0.592	0.537
Netherlds Gld	2.640	2.410
New Zealand $	2.51	2.29
Norway Kr	10.40	9.60
Portugal Esc ..	244.00	225.50
S Africa Rd	ref.	5.40
Spain Pts	198.00	183.00
Sweden Kr	10.90	10.10
Switzerland Fr	1.83	1.75
Turkey Lira	refer	83444.0
USA $	1.639	1.509

Rates for small banknotes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates for travellers' cheques. Rates at close of trading on Friday.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 32

CAPERCAILZIE
(b) The Wood-grouse, *Tetrao urogallus*, the largest of Europeaqn gallinaceous birds; the male is also called Mountain Cock or Cock of the Woods. Formerly indigenous in the Scottish Highlands, where, after having become extinct, it has again been introduced from Scandinavia. Corruption of the Gaelic *capull coille* great cock (*lit.* horse) of the wood. Queen Victoria, *More Leaves*, 1884: "Saw a capercailzie, of which there are many here."

COPINTANK
(a) A high-crowned hat in the form of a sugar loaf, worn in the 16th century. Apparently found in Shakespeare as *copatain*. Perhaps connected with the Latin *capitāneus* chief in size, or *capitium* a head covering or cap, hence Dutch cap *kop* top or head. "Sometime men were coppid cappis like a sugar loaf."

CURASSOW
(b) One of a family of gallinaceous birds found in Central and South America; they have a general resemblance to the turkey, and several species are domesticated. A phonetic spelling of the name of the island *Curaçao*. "The Curassow: The Cock has a Crown of black feathers on his Head, aqnd appears very stately."

CARPENT
(a) To make as a carpenter, to put together, to construct mechanically. From the French *charpenter*, medieval Latin *carpentāre* to cut or make as a carpenter. "With carpented Columbiads, unfortunately he [Poe] condemned poetry not founded at all on the tour de force plan of little ambitious prosaic spirits."

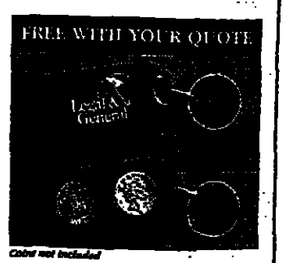
SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1 ... Nxd5! 2 Rxf6 Nxf6 and the white queen is unexpectedly trapped. Black wins easily on material.

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LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES 0171-782 7344

PUBLIC NOTICES

BENNETT, NIGEL JOHN BENNETT late of Harlow, Essex died there on or about 12 July 1995 (Estate about £200,000)
BYRON, WILLIAM BYRON late of Kilburn, London NW6 died at Paddington, London W2 on 22 February 1995 (Estate about £50,000)
CHUBB, JOHN OWEN CHUBB otherwise JACK CHUBB late of Islington, London N5 died there on 4 October 1994 (Estate about £14,000)
CLARKE, NORMAN HENRY CLARKE late of Coventry, West Midlands died there on 9 April 1995 (Estate about £8,000)
COOKE née WARD, SARAH ELIZABETH COOKE otherwise SARAH COOKE née WARD Widow late of London died there on 4 September 1994 (Estate about £7,000)
DAVIDGE, THOMAS FREDERICK DAVIDGE otherwise THOMAS DAVIDGE late of Walworth, London SE17 died at Southwark, London SE1 on 21 July 1995 (Estate about £70,000)
DICKERSON, JAMES ARTHUR DICKERSON otherwise JAMES DICKERSON late of Luton Bedfordshire died there on 16 July 1995 (Estate about £12,000)
FILER, FRANCIS CHARLES FILER late of Clevedon, Avon died there on 28 July 1995 (Estate about £11,000)
HALL, late HERON, DORIS GRACE HALL late HERON Widow late of Harrow Middlesex died there on 6 June 1993 (Estate about £8,000)
HARVEY, JOHN GEORGE HARVEY late of Ipswich, Suffolk died there on 6 March 1995 (Estate about £14,000)
HYDE, PETER HYDE late of Cambridge died there on 17 March 1995 (Estate about £51,636)
KING, LESLIE WILLIAM KING late of Rugby, Warwickshire died there on 2 July 1995 (Estate about £20,000)
LITCHFIELD, ARTHUR LITCHFIELD late of Ripley, Derbyshire died at Derby 9th April 1995 (Estate about £14,000)
LONGMORE, RODNEY JOHN LONGMORE late of Woburn Sands, West Midlands died there on 29 August 1995 (Estate about £14,000)
MASSEY, JOSEPH MASSEY late of Stockport, Cheshire died there on 22 January 1995 (Estate about £15,000)
MOORE, ROBERT JOHN MOORE late of Liphook, Hampshire died Guildford, Surrey on 29 August 1995 (Estate about £95,000)
PALLISER formerly CHRISTIAN formerly BARNES, WILLIAM ERIC PALLISER formerly CHRISTIAN formerly BARNES late of Scotland, Middlesex died there 18 April 1995 (Estate about £40,000)
THOMSON, FRANK WILLIAM THOMSON late of Pickering, North Yorkshire died there on 28 October 1995 (Estate about £14,000)
WILLIS, AVRIELL ALBERT EDWIN WILLIS late of St Albans, Hertfordshire died there on 12 January 1995 (Estate about £10,000)

The kin of the above-named are requested to apply to the Treasury Solicitor (BV), Queen Anne's Chambers, 28 Broadway, London SW1H 9JS, failing which the Treasury Solicitor may take steps to administer the estate.

PILIPCZUK, KAROL PILIPCZUK otherwise KARL PILIPCZUK late of Worcester died there on 17 May 1995 (Estate about £100,000)

The Widow and kin of the above-named are requested to apply to the Treasury Solicitor (BV), Queen Anne's Chambers, 28 Broadway, London SW1H 9JS, failing which the Treasury Solicitor may take steps to administer the estate.

CHARITY COMMISSION
Charity: Dr Barnado's Village Home. Scheme for the alteration of the objects of the Charity. Reference: GA/616886/15810-COL(Ba)

The Commissioners propose to make a Scheme for this charity. A copy of the draft Scheme can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to St Alban's House, 57-60 Haymarket, London, SW1Y 4QX quoting the above reference. Comments or representations can be made in writing within one month from today.

CHARITY COMMISSION
Charity: The Carnegie Dunfermline Trust. Scheme for the application of the Charity Reference: 216974 A/1

The Charity Commissioners have made a Scheme for this charity. Copies can be obtained from them at 2nd Floor, 20 Kings Parade, Queens Dock, Liverpool L3 4DQ (quoting the reference above).

JOSEPHINE LOUISE CHALLINOR - would any person knowing the whereabouts of Josephine Louise Challinor born 18th April 1948 and formerly of 31 Warwick Street Shelton Stoke on Trent and 281 Main Road Alexandra Avenue South Harrow London please contact J D Roberts & Co Solicitors of 65 Willow Road Hamworth Whitton Cheshire RH9 5BN telephone 01628 824464 reference DR.99.001

LEGAL NOTICES

VENTRA CORPORATION PLC (IN MEMBERS' VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION)
Notice is hereby given that the final general meeting of the above company, called under the provisions of section 94 of the Insolvency Act 1986, will be held at No. 1, London Bridge, London SE1 9QL, on 16 January 1996 at 12 noon GMT. A Video conference suite will be available in South Africa, for those shareholders in South Africa wishing to take part.
The meeting is called to receive the liquidator's account and any explanation he may give and to authorise the destruction of the company's records
Anthony Victor Lomas, Liquidator
15 December 1995

COUNTRYSTYLE PINE LIMITED (In Administrative Receivership)
Registered Number: 2137495.
Former company name: Turnmead 122nd. Nature of business: Manufacturers, dealers in carpets, linoleum, furniture. Trade classification: 09. Date of appointment of administrative receiver: 11 December 1995. Name of person appointing the administrative receiver: Steven Charles Gerrard. Administrative Receiver: Peter John Passey and Patrick Richard Hodgkinson, (Office Holder No's 8929 and 6626) of Morison Stoneham, Morison House, 78 Springfield Road, Chelmsford, Essex, CM2 6JB.

SECTION 293 OF THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986 NEVELL PATRICK WILDE AND KITTY ANNE WILDE IN BANKRUPTCY
TAKE NOTICE THAT I, Nigel John Hamilton-Smith of Morton Thornton & Co. Tottingham House, 47 Holywell Hill, St Albans, Hertfordshire AL1 1HD was appointed Trustee of the above named individuals on 29th November 1995.
N J HAMILTON-SMITH, Trustee
Dated this 11th day of December 1995

LEGAL NOTICES

CHARLES HOWSON & COMPANY LIMITED
Company No: 1731147
WRIOT INVESTMENT COMPANY LIMITED
Company No: 636078
Both Companies
In Members' Voluntary Liquidation
Notice is hereby given pursuant to Rules 4.182A and 11.2 of the Insolvency Rules 1986, that the Liquidator of the above Companies intends to make a distribution to the creditors. Creditors are required to submit full details of their claims and their names and addresses to the Liquidator, Roger Smith, KPMG Corporate Recovery, PO Box 730, 20 Farringdon Street, London EC4A 4TP, on or before Friday 29 December 1995 which is the last day for proving claims. Notice is also given that the Liquidator proposes to make final distributions and that such distributions will be made without regard to any claims not made by the due date.
Note: The Company is able to pay all its known creditors in full.
Dated 4th December 1995
R Smith - Liquidator

SEKSUI INTERNATIONAL FINANCE PLC
Company No: 2529089
In Members' Voluntary Liquidation
Notice is hereby given, pursuant to Rules 4.182A and 11.2 of the Insolvency Rules 1986, that the Liquidator of the above Company intends to make a distribution to the creditors. Creditors are required to submit full details of their claims and their names and addresses to the Liquidator, Roger Smith, KPMG Corporate Recovery, PO Box 730, 20 Farringdon Street, London EC4A 4TP, on or before Friday 29 December 1995 which is the last day for proving claims. Notice is also given that the Liquidator proposes to make final distributions and that such distributions will be made without regard to any claims not made by the due date.
Note: The Company is able to pay all its known creditors in full.
Dated 4th December 1995
R Smith - Liquidator

SEPTACRAFT LIMITED
Registered Number: 1285713
DTI Trade Classification: 29
Nature Of Persons Appointing: Peter Anthony Lawrence and Colin George Wiseman, Address of Persons Appointed: 6 Tenterden House, Alderville Way, London E14 9QH. Date Of Appointment: 1 December 1995. Name of Person Appointing: Administrative Receivers: National Bank PLC. Date of Instrument Conferring Power To Appoint: 19th December 1985. Brief Description Of The Instrument Mortgage Debenture Conferring Such Power: Floating Charge. Brief Description of Any Assets In Respect Of Which Persons Appointed Are Not Receivers: None. Peter Anthony Lawrence and Colin George Wiseman, Joint Administrative Receivers
1 December 1995.

THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
NEWSTEADS BAKERIES LIMITED
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of the Creditors of the above named Company will be held at Copdale Country Hotel, London Road, Ipswich, Suffolk on the 22 December 1995 at 10.00 am for the purposes mentioned in Section 99 - 101 of the said Act. On the two business days immediately the day of mailing a list of the names and addresses of the company's creditors will be available for inspection free of charge, at 1000 Shop Hayward, 18 Lower Brook Street, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP4 1AT.
15 December 1995
BY ORDER OF THE BOARD
R.G. NEWSTEAD, Director

SAKATA INX UK LTD (IN MEMBERS' VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION)
COMPANY NUMBER: 1890164
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: On 6 December 1995 the above company was placed into Members' Voluntary Liquidation and M. Fishman of PO Box 86, 1 Surrey Street, London WC2R 2NT was appointed Liquidator by the Members.
The Liquidator gives notice pursuant to Rule 4.182A of the Insolvency Rules 1986 that the creditors of the company must send details of their claims and oaths against the company to M. Fishman, PO Box 86, 1 Surrey Street, London WC2R 2NT by 31 January 1996.
The Liquidator also gives notice that after the provision of Rule 4.182A(6) that on 23 February 1996 he intends to make a first and final return to creditors who have submitted claims by 31 January 1996 and that there will be no further distribution to creditors. The final return to creditors will be made without regard to the claim of any person in respect of a debt not already proved.
The company is able to pay all of its known creditors in full.
Dated: 15 December 1995.
M. FISHMAN, Liquidator

DOULES LIMITED
Registered number: 1149053
Nature of business: WHOLESALE OF TEXTILES AND CLOTHING.
Trade classification: 13. Date of appointment of administrative receivers: 8th December 1995. Names of person appointing the administrative receivers: K.D. Barry, FCA and P. Murdock, FCA (office holder no's 8741 and 9244) of Leonard Curtis & Co. PO Box 585, 50 Eastbourne Terrace, 2nd Floor), London W2 6LP

LEGAL, PUBLIC, COMPANY & PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES

TO PLACE NOTICES FOR THIS SECTION PLEASE TELEPHONE
0171-782 7344 OR FAX: 0171-782 7827
Notices are subject to confirmation and should be received by 3.30pm two days prior to insertion.

Increases in factory pay outpacing inflation, says CBI

BY MARTIN BARROW

PAY rises in the manufacturing sector are outpacing inflation and trending higher. But more workers are being forced to accept pay freezes for the next year.

The latest CBI Pay Databank, released today, shows that manufacturing pay awards averaged 3.6 per cent in the three months to the end of October. This compares with 3.5 per cent for the three months to the end of September and 3.2 per cent for the three months to October 1994.

Awards in the service sector average 3.4 per cent, compared with 4.3 per cent one year ago. Inflation figures for October, published last week, showed increases in the cost of living easing to 3.1 per cent in November, from 3.2 per cent in October.

In spite of the improving outlook for pay settlements, the survey also shows that one in six manufacturers and one in seven service firms are still freezing pay for periods of up to 12 months. This compares with one in eight manufacturers and one in six service firms a year ago.

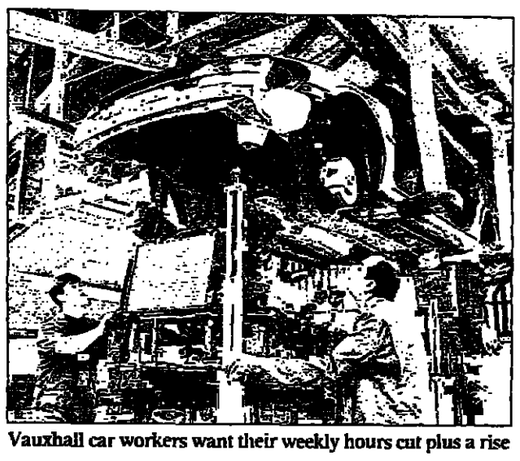
Manufacturers continue to report that their inability to raise prices is the most influential downward pressure on their pay awards. Companies also blame low profits and low cost of living increases. However, the rate of increase has accelerated markedly since the end of January, when pay awards averaged 3.1 per cent for the three previous months.

The pay survey is published as unions and management at Vauxhall, the car manufacturer, prepare to resume talks on Wednesday to try to settle a dispute that is hitting production. The unions have been pressing for a two-hour cut in the working week, and production workers at the Luton and Ellesmere Port plants are finishing their shifts two hours early as part of industrial action to back up the claim.

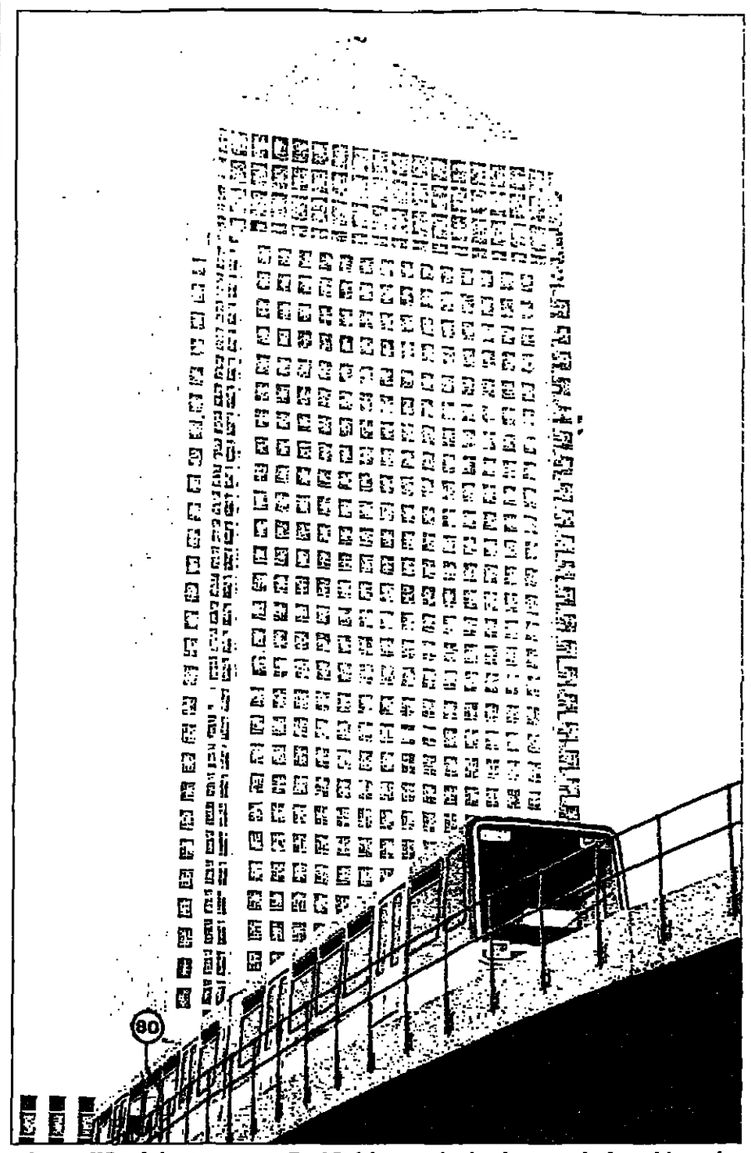
On Friday, unions and management refused to comment on speculation that Vauxhall has agreed to reduce the 39-hour week, which has been a major stumbling block in the negotiations.

Vauxhall is sticking by its offer of a 3.5 per cent pay rise now plus the rate of inflation in a year's time as well as an extra day's holiday. However, Vauxhall said it had improved its offer by extending a car leasing scheme to workers not previously covered. The scheme had been due to be phased out, but the company is offering to extend it by two years.

Tony Woodley, chief negotiator for the Transport and General Workers' Union, said: "Both sides are actively working towards a recommendable settlement."



Vauxhall car workers want their weekly hours cut plus a rise



Canary Wharf, due to return to Paul Reichmann, its developer, and others this week

IPC set to claim Canary Wharf

BY PATRICIA TEHAN
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

THE 12 banks that own Canary Wharf will complete the sale of the Docklands development to a syndicate that includes Paul Reichmann, its original developer, on Wednesday.

The banks revealed that they had reached an agreement to sell the development to the International Property Corporation (IPC) for £600 million in October. Since then, IPC has been conducting due diligence.

The banks, which took control of the development after it went into administration in 1992, will recover about 95p in the pound of their debts. The sale price values the development at £800 million, but the European Investment Bank, which is owed £165 million, is staying in and replacing its facilities with new ones of £180 million.

Mr Reichmann's consortium is believed to be paying £150 million more than the nearest bidder for Canary Wharf.

Other investors in the consortium include Prince al-Waleed bin Talal of Saudi Arabia and Michael Price, the US fund manager. It is thought there are no current plans to start building further phases of the development, but this is part of Mr Reichmann's long-term plan.

In addition to repaying the banks, the new owners are also providing working capital for the development and will meet obligations to pay £300 million towards the cost of the London Underground Jubilee Line extension, which is due to open in March 1998.

Pensions battle decision

The future of the £17 billion British Coal pension funds will be decided this week, ending an acrimonious battle between factions of trustees and the corporation.

British Coal is off-loading CINMan, the company that looks after the two pension schemes for miners and support staff. British Coal is believed to want the business to go to Friends Provident, thought to have bid twice as much for the right to manage the funds as Sal Oppenheim, the German company that has emerged as the other contender.

Japanese truce

A 30-year feud was brought to an end after Daiei Inc, Japan's largest retail chain, said it would resume selling the products of the electronics giant Matsushita Electric Industrial Co. Matsushita stopped shipments of its products to Daiei in October 1964, in retaliation for Daiei selling products at lower than suggested prices.

New rules

Proposals have been put forward to scrap the requirement for smaller companies to comply with the same financial reporting standards as large companies. One single broad accounting standard would be created as the sole source of their accounting rules, according to a working party chaired by Ken Wild, of Touche Ross.

Kmart gloom

Shares in Kmart Corp, the struggling American retailer, are expected to come under renewed pressure in New York today amid growing investor concern about the company's long-term viability.

Canberra urged by RTZ to clarify stand on merger

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM

RTZ is seeking clarification from the Australian Government of conditions imposed on the merger with its 49-per-cent-owned Australian associate, CRA. The move was announced in October and will create the world's largest mining group.

Both RTZ and CRA will go ahead with extraordinary meetings in London and Melbourne on Wednesday at which shareholders will vote on the proposed merger of operations and management.

"The boards are currently considering the implications of the requirements and seeking clarification as soon as possible from the Australian Government," said RTZ.

The deal is based on a dual listed-companies merger, which will create a single corporate entity with total assets of £9 billion and a combined market capitalisation of about £14 billion. Shareholders will retain their holdings in CRA and RTZ, but will vote together on major issues.

Ralph Willis, Australia's Federal Treasurer, whose approval of the deal is required, said last Thursday that he would give it only if CRA were allocated responsibility for the two companies' Latin American assets, and if there were a provision for Australians to make up at least one-third of the dual listed companies' boards, which will be identical.

Analysts put the problem down to Australian domestic political considerations and to sensitivity about a British company appearing to control a big Australian firm.

The key Latin American asset is RTZ's 30 per cent share in the Escondida copper mine in Chile, which is majority-owned and managed by Australia's BHP. "It is extraordinary to suggest to RTZ that it cede control of this asset to CRA, which is a direct competitor of BHP," an analyst said.

International dimension added to AIM

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

TWO overseas companies have brought an international dimension to the Alternative Investment Market.

Dmatek, an Israeli company specialising in computer software applications, created strong buying interest on its debut. The shares improved 10p on their placing price of 75p, which had capitalised the company at just over £14 million.

Its placing of 5.4 million shares was to raise cash to boost marketing activities and distribution as well as to provide funding for extra research.

Also joining the AIM was Compagnie de Participations Financières, a Luxembourg-based property and project development company with interests in northern Europe and eastern Germany. Dealing in CPF, which is worth about £12 million, was more subdued.

David Abrahams, a dealer in AIM stocks with Winterflood Securities, said that Electrophoretics, which specialises in BSE detection, was a lively stock. The company benefited from increased interest that was triggered by BSE health scares.

Mr Abrahams said that there was good two-way trade in Electrophoretics against a fairly quiet week in the rest of the market ahead of Christmas.

The companies joining trading on the AIM took the total to 116, which together have a market capitalisation of £2.22 billion.

Since the AIM started in June, the total raised by companies has reached £20.4 million.

Toad, a car-security specialist that recently floated on the AIM, went back to the market last week with a fresh issue to raise £3.8 million.

The company wanted the money to fund an acquisition of another group in the car-security business.

ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT MARKET

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (pence)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
15.50	AMCO Corp	109	+ 2	5.2	12.0
0.94	Abacus Recruit	18	...	...	...
18.10	A de Gruchy	123	...	5.7	10.2
5.91	African Gold	7	– ¼	...	...
	Albemarale & Bd	13½	– ½	...	...
10.60	Alpha OmiBron	19	– 2	...	...
39.70	Ann St Brewery	415	...	5.3	12.5
5.24	Ann St Cv Pf	885	– 10	9.0	...
89.90	Antonov	128	– 8	...	...
11.70	Ask Central	73	...	...	...
	Athelney Trust	60	...	...	...
4.37	Barts Hldgs	17	...	...	...
4.12	Belcanto	46	...	...	...
	Bowness Leis	145	...	...	...
	Bown Leis Cv Pf	70	...	...	...
5.45	Brancote Hldgs	55	– 1	...	...
28.00	Brockbank	240	+ 5	3.3	24.0
	CCI Hldgs	115	– 1	...	...
	CCI Founder Shs	110	...	...	...
2.74	Cale Inns	98	– 7	2.6	8.1
8.52	Caledonian Tst	75	...	...	9.1
11.90	Card Clear	60	...	5.2	10.3
3.96	Cassidy Bros	72	...		20.8
1.79	Cavendish W F	41	...	...	...
5.28	Celebrated Group	18	– 1	...	...
17.00	Celtic	6550	–100	...	...
	Celtic Pf Shs	6450	–200	...	...
14.80	CI Comms(TV)	110	– 2	2.8	14.0
5.58	Chartwell Intl	62	...	...	...
13.10	ClubPartners	31	...	...	...
12.20	Com de Prt Fin	510	...	...	...
7.99	Conister Tst	40	...	2.5	17.1
10.70	Country Gdns	60	...	2.5	12.4
2.57	Cntry Gdns Pf	70	+ 2	9.5	...
39.20	Creos Intl	109	...	...	...
11.30	DBS Management	167	+ 10	4.5	6.8
	Dalkeith Inns	35	...	...	...
3.58	David Glass	66	...	5.5	9.4
39.30	Dawson Hldgs	860	...	4.2	11.9
3.21	Dean Corp	11	...	...	64.3
15.90	Dmatek	85	...	...	...
102.20	Electrophoretics Intl	158	– 2	...	...
5.62	Euro Sales Fin	125	...	...	...
	Fairlake	300	+ 45	...	...
1.77	Finl Publs	75	...	...	...
22.20	Firecrest	133	– 12	...	57.8
6.12	Floral St	263	+ 25	0.5	...
5.12	Flomerics	200	– 5	...	18.2
12.70	Formscan	135	+ 17	1.9	...
4.65	Furlong Homes	93	...	3.2	5.0
24.50	Gander Hldgs	8½	+ ¼	....	72.5
5.10	Greenhills	17	– 2	...	...
34.60	Guilon	155	...	3.2	14.0
5.09	Hansom	50	– 3	...	...
54.50	Hiscox Ded Ins	120	...	0.3	...
10.90	Indpt Radio	109	– 3	...	...
14.40	Inner Workings	86	+ 5	...	...
21.10	Intl Greetings	503	...	...	...
3.38	Jasmin	83	– 12	...	...
18.70	Jennings Bros	288	– 2	2.5	24.7
38.20	KS Biomedix	101	+ 1	...	...
25.70	Lancashire Enterprises	142	+ 2	4.4	12.1
	Lawrence	205	...	...	...
53.70	Lawrie Group	2750	...	3.2	14.0
46.40	Le Riches Strs	280	...	7.0	27.0
	Lifehome As Ten	85	...	...	...
19.40	Lon Fiduciary	2	– ¼	...	...
2.00	London Town	80	...	...	...
11.70	Lonrex Grp	205	– 5	...	...
14.70	Manx & O'seas	25	...	...	...
46.10	Megalomedia	107	+ 3	...	...
	Megalomedia Wts	94	– 3	...	...
5.70	Melltek	90	...		40.2
252.80	Memory Corp	427	– 38	...	...
6.04	Metrodome Films	21	...	...	...
12.00	Moorepay	158	+ 2	3.1	26.0
19.90	MultiMedia	69	+ 1	...	...
22.50	NWF Grp	300	...	2.7	14.5
	Nash (Wm)	175	+ 15	4.7	...
8.48	Nelli Clerk	335	...	2.2	16.2
5.63	Neilson Cobbold	205	...	2.3	5.0
	Norcity II	65	...	...	...
	Norhomes	66	...	...	...
	Nthmb Res Prps	70	...	...	...
16.90	Nursing Home	109	+ 2	0.6	...
9.68	Old English Pub	88	+ 2	2.8	...
5.49	Omnecare	89	...	2.1	14.8
12.20	Omnimedia	68	– 3	...	...
10.70	Pacific Media	1	– ¼	...	...
	Pacific Med Pf	45	...	...	...
6.59	Pan Andean Res	16	– ½	...	...
4.66	Park Ests(Liv)	195	...	...	...
88.60	Pel City	365	+ 10	...	...
3.62	Preston Nth E	400	...	...	...
1.07	Revelation Piccadilly	100	...	...	...
11.20	Riceman Insce	17	...	...	...
13.40	SCS Satellite	130	...	...	...
4.45	Scotswood Inds	20	...	6.2	60.8
	Scott Pride	41	...	...	...
13.00	Scrutions	270	...	6.0	11.0
	Silkbarn	2½	...	...	...
124.00	Southern News	526	+ 1	3.7	14.7
	Southern Vectis	53	...	...	...
31.10	Stanford Rook	178	+ 2	...	...
13.60	Surrey Fr Inns	135	+ 5	1.7	15.9
46.80	TRACKER Netwk	885	– 20	...	...
4.65	Tele Cred Eur	46	– 5	...	...
	Tele Cred Wrts	36	– 5	...	...
13.70	Toad	110	– 6	...	...
	Trinity Care	180	...	1.0	...
	Trinity Care Pf	165	...	...	...
194.30	Trocadero	46	+ 3	...	...
	Univent	40	...	...	...
8.15	Utd Auctions	458	– 1	1.1	...
	VDC	605	+ 20	...	22.0
35.70	Versailles Grp	13½	...	...	...
	Voss	245	+ 5	...	...
	Wedderburn Secs	12	– 1	...	...
	Wedd Secs Wrnts	5	...	...	...
2.13	Westmount Engy	26	...	...	...
8.42	W'chester M Mid	76	– 2	...	...
	Wynnstay Props	145	...	...	...
	Zergo	170	...	...	...

THE UNIVERSITY OF NOTTINGHAM

ASSESSING OUR IMPACT

ACHIEVEMENTS AT HOME AND ABROAD

Each year the University of Nottingham sets itself clear objectives in a number of different fields. The sum of these individual ambitions add up to a strategic aim. This is to sustain the University's acknowledged position in the leading group of research universities in the United Kingdom while at the same time providing a teaching and learning environment which is second to none.

Nottingham seeks to contribute to scholarship, understanding, invention, innovation and to promote economic partnership with the public and private sectors.

Every year, in December, the University publishes its Annual Report. It allows us to examine the extent to which we have succeeded in achieving our aim, to explain our policies and to demonstrate the lessons we have learnt from experience.

It also provides an opportunity to examine the impact Nottingham has had nationally, internationally and, just around the corner, in our own local community.

REGIONALLY, the University's impact is diverse; it injected some £200 million into the local economy in 1994-95, is one of the largest employers in Nottingham, and the staff of its Medical Faculty provide much of the consultant medical care in the City.

Its new £5 million Arts Centre attracted greatly increased audiences for visual and performing arts and more than 12,000 people participated in its Adult Education courses.

NATIONALLY, research awards rose by a remarkable 22% to a new high of £40 million. Independent statistics showed Nottingham to be the most sought-after UK university in terms of student applications - 17 - for each available place. In the teaching quality assessment exercise Nottingham returned one of the highest proportions of departments earning top grades.

INTERNATIONALLY, Nottingham made great progress towards bringing to fruition exciting development schemes in Thailand and Malaysia, in co-operation with home governments and the private sector.

In the fields of research and teaching, in economic, social and cultural life, we believe our staff and students made great progress in 1994-95.

If you would like to read about our activities in more detail, ask for a copy of the Annual Report. It is available from the Public Affairs and Information Office
Telephone: 0115 951 5765
Fax: 0115 951 5733
Electronic mail:
Signy.Johnson@nottingham.ac.uk

THE UNIVERSITY OF NOTTINGHAM, UNIVERSITY PARK, NOTTINGHAM NG7 2RD
PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND INFORMATION OFFICE. TEL: 0115 951 5765 FAX: 0115 951 5733

Putting Ebenezer Scrooge back together again

Was Ebenezer Scrooge unethical in business or just personally stingy? For Bob Cratchit and Tiny Tim, this question was somewhat academic at Christmas time. But the seasonal enlightenment visited on the Victorian financial services provider had more long-term effects. He resolved to do his bit for the community and to treat his employees, and even his customers, better in future.

Charles Dickens laid down his pen at this point, so readers did not come to learn the earnings per share record of Scrooge & Marley under this benevolent new regime. Did the boss's new attitude pay off in customer loyalty and staff morale, as consultants in business ethics claim, or was the new sentimentalist rolled over in the market by competitors who traded more ruthlessly, however they might spread the proceeds?

These issues therefore continue to puzzle London intellectuals as they pick their way through blanketed rough sleepers on their way from one seasonal champagne reception to another. At one extreme, there is still emotional prejudice against Adam Smith's hidden hand, the idea that pursuing individual self-interest can deliver the best economic results for everyone. This is evident in attitudes to privatised utilities — or even the National Lottery. Populists often put the means before the results achieved. To some, it matters more how much BT is earning per minute than whether the phones work and prices are falling. At the other extreme lies a simpler view of managers' responsibilities. Derek Scott, finance director of Stagecoach Holdings, has bravely defended his own company in *Finance & Ethics Quarterly*, published by the Scottish Churches Industrial Mission. Responding to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, which called Stagecoach trading practices "predatory, deplorable and against the public interest", Mr Scott argues: "The only rational objective for business is maximising long-term owner value, defined exclusively in financial terms."



GRAHAM SCOTT

The MMC's damning words referred to Stagecoach's treatment of competitors, which aimed, as Adam Smith would have predicted, to achieve dominance in various bus markets. Mr Scott has a different concept of ethics, defining the company's objectives as providing quality services at affordable fares, plus "charitable giving, ethical advertising, and opposition to bribery and corruption in dealings with governments and other businesses".

Aside from charitable giving, these are practices necessary for markets to work efficiently. But charitable works, much as they make sense to pragmatic managers, are not approved by purists. Mr Scrooge was owner and proprietor as well as boss. Is it ethical for managers to distribute shareholders' funds? Not according to Elaine Sternberg, an influential specialist whose theories — and their American equivalents — comfort many City folk. According to Dr Sternberg: "However worthy the causes may be, when business managers fund them by taking shareholders' funds their actions are more properly condemned as theft than praised as social responsibility."

Such rules make life much easier for managers. Like most of us, they want to measure their performance against simple goals, rather than grapple with complex notions of what they should be doing when they are quite busy enough trying to do it. But it is too simple.

Ebenezer Scrooge could not make such distinctions because he was, at least fictionally, a human being. If, in their working lives, people become merely economic agents, such as employees, managers or the fund managers who own the shares on behalf of other nameless people, there is an insoluble problem. How do you put these bits back together to get the answers that will be ethical to human beings? Individuals can be charitable and help their neighbours. But neither consumers, nor individual private shareholders nor those who have pension rights are routinely in a position to decide how financial service companies treat their clerks or how munificently British Gas treats top management, let alone what Shell does in the North Sea or Ogoniland.

Enter the Government, the law and the fast-growing industry of business regulation. Yet that is not a satisfactory answer either. If business has no responsibility to safeguard jobs, invest in expansion or pay wages people can decently live on, then government is guaranteed to be big. Those who say the only responsibility of business managers is to maximise returns on investment have a problem if voters do not like the results.

Business ends up with permanently high taxes and ever more oppressive regulation. That can become much more onerous and distort markets much more than obliging economic agents to act as rounded human beings. American theorists then argue that public choices, expressed through the ballot box, tend to be misguided and corrupt and should therefore be cut back to the minimum. But you cannot have it both ways.

Helping business to deliver the right moral results would be easier if people agreed what those might be, or delegated such matters to spiritual leaders. But they do not. The messier option is for each of the economic agents to be subjected to competing pressures. That can be by institutional means: non-executive directors, two-tier boards or representative bodies. It can be attempted through market forces, such as ethical funds and the marketing of Body Shop or the Co-operative Bank. It can be the hunting ground of pressure groups, lobbying fund managers as well as companies.

Running business will never be as simple as in academic theories, or in Victorian morality tales.

FedEx action proves organised labour in America has lost its way, says **Ian Brodie**

Bad case of the Memphis blues

You could look on the troubles at Federal Express as rather like Santa having problems with some of his reindeer until the rest of them, along with the elves, come to his rescue to make sure that all the presents arrive on time. It is almost a parable for the sorry state of the American trade union movement.

As the world's largest overnight delivery service, Federal Express is gearing up for its biggest week of the year, despite an overtime ban by the pilots' union designed to disrupt the peak flow of more than three million packages a day before Christmas.

After three weeks, the action has failed to hurt the company significantly. Fewer than half of the 3,000 pilots have joined the slowdown, while many others have volunteered to fly extra shifts on their days off and are now talking about forming an in-house union.

The remaining 110,000 employees of FedEx, the elves who load the packages and drive the vans, have loyally sided with Santa. He is Fred Smith who founded FedEx 22 years ago in Memphis where, as a local hero, he ranks second only to Elvis Presley. A few days ago, several thousand FedEx workers held a rally in Memphis in support of the company, the biggest employer in town, and to protest against the pilots trying to sabotage its operations. Once again a big American union, in this case the Air Line Pilots Association (Alpa), has misread the signals and dug itself into a hole. The episode is yet another chapter in the decline of US organised labour, which has been steadily losing political clout and economic influence since the 1970s. In their heyday, unions represented one in three American workers. Now their membership has dwindled to 11 per cent of the private workforce.

Sympathy for unions has largely disappeared. Many Americans are frankly baffled by French polls showing that a majority of citizens feel solidarity with the strikers. In the US, even the stigma of being a "scab" has eroded, as three current examples show.

Two weeks ago, the United Auto Workers suffered the humiliation of calling off an 18-month strike at the Caterpillar factory in Peoria, Illinois, with none of their goals achieved. The only point proved was that Caterpillar could continue producing 100-tonne bulldozers using a medley of office workers, managers and replacements. A returning striker remarked bitterly: "I realised just how valuable I'm not."

In Detroit, once a union bastion, workers have been on strike over wages and working conditions since mid-July at the city's two main newspapers, the *Detroit News* and *Detroit Free Press*. At first the papers printed a joint edition, but since September they have been publishing separately as usual, thanks to replacements and union defectors. When 1,500 strikers blockaded the printing plant to prevent lorries from leaving with newspapers, management sent in helicopters to pick up the bundles.

Last Wednesday, a 69-day strike affecting 32,500 workers at Boeing ended with the union having won extra job security, medical coverage and pay. Some three dozen new planes had been delayed by the strike but, more to the point, Boeing did manage to continue production at a reduced rate. Twenty-five aircraft were completed with the help of 4,000 strike-breakers plus 4,000 supervisors and non-union workers. Nor, in reaching a settlement, did Boeing yield on plans to cut costs by a quarter within three years while increasing its use of outside sub-contractors.

Several reasons can be advanced for the fading power of American unions, not all of their own making. Corporate down-sizing, high-tech advances, the global economy and a migration from Rust Belt to Sun Belt have all loosened old ties.

An ominous sign of union weakness occurred in 1981 when 13,000 striking air traffic controllers were sacked by Ronald Reagan, who refused to rehire them. Other unions failed to rally to their support and air traffic control was taken over by supervisors and the air force.

Such old-time labour bosses as the late Jimmy Hoffa, who looted pension funds and concocted deals with the Mob, left the union movement with an ineradicable stain of dishonour. To this day, highly paid union leaders are frequently out of touch with members' needs.

When not flying overtime, Captain Bill Finnegan, a FedEx pilot, has been parading outside the airport in Anchorage, Alaska, with a sign over his shoulder denouncing Alpa. A former member, he accuses the union of trying to prepare for a fight against United, Delta and other large passenger airlines by first extracting a punitive settlement from FedEx. Mark Fox, another FedEx captain, agrees. "The union has nothing to offer other than to divide the pilots," he said. "Their way of trying to gain support is through fear and dogma."

Alpa officials, unwilling to debate the issue publicly, portray FedEx as simply determined to stop any unions gaining a foothold. With negotiations at an impasse, FedEx has allocated a 4 per cent pay increase for the pilots who were already averaging $128,000 with overtime. The company has also proposed a greatly enhanced pension plan but remains at odds with Alpa on key points, including productivity.

Last Wednesday, FedEx announced net income of almost $90 million for the quarter ending November 30, a 4 per cent increase over last year. Wall Street reacted with disappointment, not to Alpa's antics, but to the soft growth in international air freight. FedEx shares dipped from $81⅝ to $76¾. Some additional costs have been incurred in emergency planning for possible delays caused by Alpa. FedEx will lease seven Boeing 727s with crews from other airlines, if needed. The company has beefed up normal contingency procedures at its global control centre where routes for planes and trucks can be altered at short notice.

Aircraft known as "hot spares" are held on standby at key points across the network in case of unforeseen hold-ups. The coincidental challenge of strike-bound airports in France was met by switching FedEx transatlantic flights to Stansted and trans-shipping cargo to the Continent by road and rail.



A FedEx aircraft out of Memphis, unaffected by an overtime ban, lands in Hong Kong

The union battles against FedEx, Boeing, Caterpillar and the Detroit newspapers have all been affected by the employers' abilities to continue operating. The lesson ought to be that negotiations are better than confrontation. Yet, that is not the message conveyed by the new president of the American Federation of Labour and Congress of Industrial Organisations (AFL-CIO), an umbrella group of 78 unions that roughly corresponds to the TUC.

In fact, John Sweeney is serious about adopting a more militant and aggressive stance. He says workers must be ready to engage in civil disobedience to command respect. To make the point, his supporters blocked traffic on bridges into Washington. The tactic drew attention to his campaign to unionise janitors, but it also left thousands of rush-hour commuters fuming.

Mr Sweeney, 61, son of a cleaning woman and a bus driver, worked briefly as a lift operator before choosing a lifelong career as a union official. In trying to re-energise the AFL-CIO, where membership has shrunk to 13 million, he has suggested that "the entire country" should rise up in protest over lost jobs. He seems to be missing the point that if the jobs are there Americans will seize them, even if it means replacing someone on strike.

VH-1 is available on cable and satellite.

Dear Diary,

Painted my front door black in honour of the Rolling Stones featured on VH-1 at 6.00pm. Reminded me of the time I drove a car into a swimming pool, and chucked a telly out of a hotel window, had social intercourse with a million groupies, drank a case of wild turkey and appeared on Jacktonory wearing a tu-tu. But nowadays I get much more fun out of life.

VH-1

Where music means something.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Bill pays bill pending Bill

ONLY personal intervention by President Clinton prevented the US Budget impasse, which had been expected to be sorted out in early November, from striking at the very heart of seasonal festivities, the national Christmas tree in Washington. The White House and the Republican-led Congress were still deadlocked at midnight on Friday in their efforts to reach agreement on an emergency spending Bill. The resulting Government shutdown would have meant that the lights on the national Christmas tree, on federal park land in Washington, would have had to be put out. But Michael McCurry, a White House spokesman, said that Mr Clinton had ordered the tree be kept glittering and the bill sent to him personally. The official White House line: "We hope it won't cost too much."

Bleak picture

AMONG the latest batch of Christmas cards to tumble on to the desk is an item featuring a painting of a snowy wasteland, with bare trees and bleak stone wall. The sender? Binder Hamlyn, currently facing a £105 million damages claim. The artist? Claude Monet.

Princely purchase

PRINCE al-Waleed bin Talal, the 38-year-old billionaire nephew of Saudi Arabia's King Fahd, has struck again. The prince, who sprang to prominence by taking a supportive stake in Euro Disney and joining the consortium that is buying Canary Wharf, popped up over the weekend as the buyer of a 50 per cent stake in the property that houses the Four Seasons hotel, Inn on the Park, in London for $50 million. The prince's hotel interests pale into insignificance next to his other adventures, but he did buy 50 per cent of Fairmont Hotels in San Francisco in July 1994.

Top of the shelf

ALLAN LEIGHTON, deputy chief executive at Asda, has just spent 12 weeks on an intensive senior management course in America. Lesser mortals were also rewarded, but the seat of learning for many of the food retailer's senior managers was a newly opened store, checking out the group's latest innovations. As Mr Leighton said: "Others got to go to Hartlepool to be developed. I got to go to Harvard."

The reel thing

SEEN the film — now enjoy the experience. In Scotland, where they know a thing or two about Hogmanay, the Gleneagles hotel is hosting a Rob Roy New Year's Eve party. The staff will be wearing costumes from the film and the hotel will have a Rob Roy suite with Jacobean furniture, and a Rob Roy adventure package.

Guiding hand

THOUGHT for today, from the editorial comment of *Finance & Ethics Quarterly*: "In a new book on business ethics, it is said that neither God nor Kant has had to run a modern business. While this may be true of Kant, there are theological grounds for suggesting that God, in us, is actually running thousands of businesses on a daily basis".

RADIO CHOICE

Pictures born out of words

With Great Pleasure. *Radio 4 FM, 10.00am.*

These anthologies of favourite prose and poems are relaunched with the choice of Peter Blake, a book illustrator and associate artist at the National Gallery. It seems odd that he could not find a visual parallel to the surreal prose style of *The Great Gatsby*. Yet he had no such problem with the stage design of Roger McGough's *Summer with Monika*. The latter is awash with surreal lines such as "We swam in the sink and played with shoals of dishes", and "We picnicked on the banks of the settee". I look forward to his wood engravings for *Under Milk Wood*. He is not keen on poetry, which he thinks is as superfluous as opera. Now there is a provocative statement if ever I heard one.

One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest. *Radio 4, 7.45pm.*

It can be argued that because of the 1975 film adaptation of Dale Wasserman's novel about a mental institution, its horrifying climax no longer shocks. Not only that. We all know only too well how, step by step, events ensure that something awful is going to happen to McMurphy, the newly arrived and untameable inmate who single-handedly takes on the fearsome nurse in charge. Listening again to the BBC World Service's production of Ken Kesey's stage version of the play, I realise that familiarity with a work does not have to breed apathy. If it did, we would not want to see another *Hamlet* for the rest of our lives.

Peter Davalle

RADIO 1

FM Stereo. **4.00am** Clive Warren **5.30** Chris Evans **9.00** Simon Mayo **12.00** Lisa I'Anson, incl at **12.30-12.45pm** Newsbeat **3.00** Mark Goodier, including at **5.30-5.45** Newsbeat; and at **6.15** The Net **7.00** Evening Session. Rancid and Sleaper **9.00** Apache Indian **10.00** Mark Radcliffe **12.00** Wendy Lloyd

RADIO 2

FM Stereo **6.00am** Sarah Kennedy **7.30** Wake Up to Wogan **9.30** Ken Bruce **11.30** Jimmy Young **2.00pm** Debbie Thrower **3.30** Ed Stewart **5.05** John Dunn **7.00** Hubert Gregg **7.30** Malcolm Laycock with Dance Band Days, and at **8.00** Big Band Era **8.30** Big Band Special **9.00** Humphrey Lyttelton **10.00** Enchanted Evenings **10.30** The Jamesons **12.05am** Digby Fairweather **1.00** Steve Madden **3.00** Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports **6.00** The Breakfast Programme, incl at **6.55** and **7.55** Racing **8.35** The Magazine, incl at **10.35** Euronews; **11.05** Going Bananas **12.00** Midday with Mair; **12.34pm** Moneycheck; **1.15** Entertainment **2.05** Ruscoe on Five, incl at **2.35** Actuality; and at **3.45** Entertainment **4.00** John Inverdale Nationwide, incl at **5.45** Entertainment **7.00** News Extra, incl at **7.20** sport **7.35** Sportstrack. **1976 8.00** The Monday Match. Manchester City v Nottingham **10.05** News Talk **11.00** Night Extra, incl at **11.15** The Financial World Tonight **12.05am** The Other Side of Midnight **2.05** Up All Night

TALK RADIO

6.00am Sandy Warr **7.00** Simon Bates **10.00** Jonathan King **12.00** Tommy Boyd **2.00pm** Anna Raeburn **4.00** Scott Chisholm and Lowri Turner **7.00** Sean Bolger **9.00** Moz Dee **10.00** James Whale **1.00-6.00am** Ian Collins

WORLD SERVICE

All times in GMT 5.00am Newsday **5.30** Europe Today **6.00** Newsday **6.30** Europe Today **7.00** News **7.15** *Middlemarch* **7.30** The Vintage Chart Show **8.00** News **8.10** Words of Faith **8.15** The Greenfield Collection **9.00** News in German **9.15** Anything Goes **9.45** Sport **10.00** Newsdesk **10.30** BBC English **10.45** *Middlemarch* **11.00** Newsdesk **11.30** Omnibus **12.00** World News **12.05pm** Business Report **12.15** Britain **12.30** Ports of Call **1.00** Newshour **2.00** News **2.05** Outlook **2.30** John Peel **3.00** News in German **3.15** Concert Hall **4.00** World News **4.15** The World Today **4.30** News in German **5.00** Europe Today **5.30** Business Report **5.45** Sport **6.00** Newsdesk **6.30** News in German **7.00** News **7.01** Outlook **7.25** Words of Faith **7.30** Multitrack **8.00** Newshour **9.00** News **9.05** Business **9.15** Britain Today **9.30** Omnibus **10.00** Newsdesk **10.30** The World Today **10.45** Sport **11.00** News **11.10am** Take Five **11.15** Ed Stewart **11.45** Development **95 Midnight** Newsdesk **12.30am** Folk Routes **12.45** Britain **1.00** News **1.10** Press Review **1.15** Sinaire **1.45** Health **2.00** Newsday **2.30** Quote, Unquote **3.00** News **3.15** Sport **3.30** John Peel **4.00** Newsdesk **4.30** Europe

CLASSIC FM

4.00am Mark Griffiths **6.00** Nick Bailey **9.00** Henry Kelly **12.00** Susannah Simons **2.00pm** Concerto **3.00** Jamie Crick **6.00** Newsnight **6.30** Sonata **7.00** A to Z of Classical Music **8.00** Evening Concert. A week of concerts for Christmas **10.00** Michael Mappin **1.00am** Sally Peterson

VIRGIN RADIO

6.00am Russ 'n' Jono's Breakfast Experience **9.00** Richard Skinner **12.00** Graham Dene **4.00pm** Nicky Horne **7.30** Paul Coyte **10.00** Mark Forrest **2.00-6.00am** Robin Banks

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air. Beethoven (Overture, The Ruins of Athens); Berlioz (Symphonie fantastique); William Lawes (Fantasia-Suite No 3 in A minor); Kabalevsky (Four Preludes); Haydn (Baryton Trio in D); **8.05** Carissimi (I Filosofi); Bridge (An Irish Melody, Londonderry Air); **8.32** Mozart (Symphony No 34 in C)

9.00 Morning Collection with Paul Gambaccini. Milhaud (Scaramouche); Berlioz (Royal Hunt and Storm; Tout n'est que paix et charme; Nuits d'ivresse, The Trojans, Act 4); Beethoven (Cello Sonata in F, Op 5 No 1)

10.00 Musical Encounters. Torelli (Trumpet Concerto in D); **10.08** a selection of carols; Szymanowski (Four Studies, Op 4); Haydn (Symphony No 102 in B flat); **11.00** Amy Beach (Piano Quintet in F sharp); Prokofiev (Cinderella, excerpts)

12.00 Composer of the Week: Zelenka (Fanfare in C; Mass in D; Second Lamentation of Jeremiah for Holy Saturday; Velum templum scissum est, Responsoria pro Hebdomada Sancta)

1.00pm BBC Lunchtime Concert, live from St John's, Smith Square, London. Philip Fowke, piano, plays Pinto (Grand Sonata in C minor); Ireland (Piano Sonata); Rubbra (Eight Preludes)

2.00 The BBC Orchestras. BBC SO under Libor Pesek. Novak (Eternal Longing); Szymanowski (Violin Concerto No 1: Raphael Oleg); Strauss (Also sprach Zarathustra)

3.40 Fairest Isle: An Outside View. Bernard Haitink considers British music

3.45 Fairest Isle: Oxbridge Organs. John Scott plays the new organ at St John's College, Cambridge, built by the firm of N.P. Mander

4.30 You Take Some Skins . . . (r)

5.00 The Music Machine. David Mellor, Nicola Lefanu and Cormac Rigby are among the guests who are invited to select their favourite and least favourite music

5.15 In Tune, with Andrew Green. Wolf (Italian Serenade); **6.03** Franz Strauss (Nocturno for horn and piano, Op 7); Bach (Orchestral Suite No 4 in D)

7.30 Amsterdam Mahler Festival. Humphrey Burton presents a series of 15 concerts from the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam. In the first, the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra under Riccardo Chailly performs Mahler (Seven songs from "Des Knaben Wunderhorn"; Das klagende Lied)

9.05 Cinema 100: The Dream Project. The director Michael Radford talks about his ultimate fantasy film (1/4)

9.25 Ravel and Messiaen. London Chamber Ensemble. Ravel (Piano Trio in A minor); Messiaen (Quatuor pour la fin du temps) (r)

10.45 Mixing It. Listeners' favourite tracks

11.30-12.30am Ensemble. Angela Brownridge, piano, plays Beethoven (Piano Sonata in F minor, Appassionata); Liszt (Consolation in D flat; Three Concert Studies)

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping Forecast (**LW** only) **6.00** News Briefing, incl **6.03** Weather **6.10** Farming Today **6.25** Prayer for the Day **6.30** Today, incl **6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30** News **6.55, 7.55** Weather **7.25, 8.25** Sports News **7.45** Thought for the Day **8.40** The Doomsday Letters, with Sir Crispin Tickell (1/3) **8.58** Weather

9.00-10.00, 10.30-4.00 Test Match Special (**LW** only). South Africa v England

9.00 News (**FM** only) **9.05 Start the Week** (**FM** only), with Melvyn Bragg and Rosie Boycott. With Harold Pinter, Fiona Shaw, Patrick Wall and Annette Karmiloff-Smith

10.00-10.30 News; With Great Pleasure (**FM** only). See Choice

10.00 Daily Service (**LW** only), from the Chapel of Bishopthorpe Palace

10.15 Those Glorious Songs of Old (**LW** only). Andrew Parrott presents the first of five programmes this week on the origins of carols

NB: The following are on FM only until 4pm.

10.30 Woman's Hour

11.30 Money Box Live: 0171-580 4444

12.00 News; You and Yours

12.25pm Who Goes There? Chairman Martin Young, Fred Housego, Gillian Reynolds and Roy Hattersley explore the lives of the rich and famous **12.55** Weather

1.00 The World at One (**FM, LW**)

1.40 The Archers (r) **1.55** Shipping Forecast

2.00 News; For a Son. Carey Harrison's comedy is set in 12th-century Spain, where the King and Queen are desperate to produce a son and heir. With Geoffrey Palmer and Philip Jackson (r)

3.00 The Afternoon Shift

4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope reviews the National Theatre's revival of Tom Stoppard's *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead*, and launches a week-long poll to discover listeners' favourite poem by a living poet

4.45 The Story of Doctor Dolittle, by Hugh Lofting. Read by Alan Bennett (1/5)

5.00 PM 5.50 Shipping Forecast **5.55** Weather

6.00 News 6.30 I'm Sorry I Haven't a Clue (r)

7.00 News 7.05 The Archers

7.20 The Food Programme (r)

7.45 The Monday Play: One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest (r). See Choice

9.15 Whose Freedom is it Anyway? Poland's move to a market economy after 1989 enabled Nina Kowalewska to become her own boss

9.30 Kaleidoscope (r) **9.58** Weather

10.00 The World Tonight, with Owen Bennett Jones

10.45 Book at Bedtime: The Go-Between, by L.P. Hartley. Read by John Rowe (6/10)

11.00 Echoes Last in the series (r)

11.30-12.00 Great Escapes (**FM** only) (r)

11.30 Today in Parliament (**LW** only)

12.00 News, incl **12.27am** Weather

12.30 The Late Book: Miss Smilla's Feeling for Snow, by Peter Hoeg. Read by Siobhan Redmond (1/15)

12.48 Shipping Forecast **1.00 As World Service**

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2. FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3. FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.8; LW 198; MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE. MW 693, 909. WORLD SERVICE. MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). CLASSIC FM. FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO. FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO UK. MW 1053, 1089. Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Gillian Maxey, Rosemary Smith and Susan Thomson

هكذا من الأصل

Predators on the young and innocent

REVIEW



Lynne Truss

There is a Maupassant story about a wet-nurse on a train to Marseilles on a sweltering day. The wet-nurse suffers because she has not given milk. A man sitting opposite, mentally licking his lips, watches her loosen her clothes. "May I help you?" he asks at last, trying to make this selfless offer sound nonchalant. She looks at him, and thinks about it. "All right then," she says. If the story sounds familiar, writer Guy Hibbert used it at the outset of his brilliant three-part drama *Nice Town* a couple of years ago. Paul McGann read aloud the Maupassant story, and pronounced it lovely. The woman needed to empty; the man needed to fill. "Isn't that beautiful?" he asked his wife, dreamily. She pursed her lips. "It's certainly convenient," she said. He rested the book on his chest and smiled in a faraway fashion. "I think it's beautiful."

Nice Town was about the perils of putting this beautiful principle into practice. McGann's sister-in-law had a need for sperm; and conveniently, McGann had the need to give her some. Saturday night's **Saigon Baby** (BBC2) was Guy Hibbert's latest excursion into such stark and dangerous human fiscal arrangements, and turned out to be one of the best, most intelligent dramas on that well-worn subject, babies for money. Kerry Fox and Douglas Hodge were the Western white couple sweatily pressing thin currency into the hands of corrupt, blank-faced officials in Bangkok — a not-so-nice town where flesh is cheap, except when you want to buy it outright and take it home. So steeped were they in their agony of need that the simplicity of their proposed bargain was driving them mad. All these spare unwanted children: why was it wrong to take one and love it?

Saigon Baby was billed as a thriller, but it was an emotional journey, largely carried by a terrific performance from Kerry Fox, who had evidently been shadowing Mia Farrow and the Princess of Wales for tips on maternal fierceness, mental instability and thinly veiled despair. The blare and lush colours of the Far East were alienating, but not terrifying; the temperature was that of blood. John Hurt as the spivvy, pony-tailed baby-broker floated comfortably on the dense human tide, smiling with his arms outstretched. He was not an evil man, just a wickedly pragmatic one. Asian babes of all sizes were a rich commodity. You just picked out the one that suited you best. It was as simple as tickling fish.

But choice turned out to be the problem. When Fox was finally let loose in a white dormitory of wailing babies in Saigon, she broke down brilliantly, in a way to break your heart. "I can't do this. I can't even look at them." Without any prompting from the director David Attwood, it was perfectly clear what the wretched Fox was thinking: this is just as bad as the Western men selecting women in a massage parlour ("I'll have Number 51"). "You crossed the line," explained Hurt at the end. "You're in the business of child-trafficking." But this explanation was superfluous, and had perhaps been tacked on for the convenience of the congenitally dim.

Saigon Baby was such a successful piece of drama that it affected how one saw other things. For example, in the last of the repeated **Trials of Life** last night (BBC2), David Attenborough introduced us to a male red butterfly which hangs around female pupae, waiting for the adults to emerge. Thus, before the virgin female has had a chance to unfurl her wings, breathe some fresh air and think "Great! What happens now? Mm, toast would be nice!", the predatory male has come up behind. Same fate as those pubescent Asian babes, you see.

This last programme in Attenborough's monumental series concerned the variety of sexual acts in the natural world, and was not to be watched with the heating up too high. Even the coy Royal Mail analogies — "At this point, the male tarantula delivers its packet" — could not disguise what was going on. Attenborough enjoys the drama but pretends that we are watching these animal couplings for information. Regard the female chinchilla with its quaint way of saying no thanks. "A quick squirt of urine in the face makes her feelings clear," explains Attenborough, matter-of-factly.

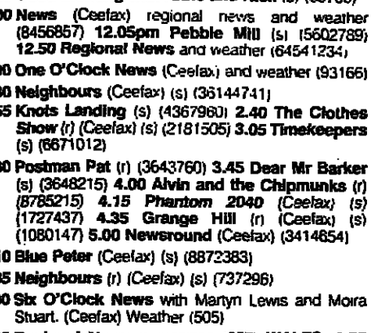
Recently, a very stupid *J'Accuse* programme on Channel 4's *Without Walls* banged on about the unacceptable sex, violence and sheer eventfulness in nature programmes. I found myself hoping last night that the perpetrators of this silly argument had tuned in by mistake to this last repeat of *The Trials of Life* and were hugging their ears: but I have to admit I also winced every time Attenborough described a male's sexual acquaintance as his "harem".

Perhaps *Saigon Baby* was still working on my imagination, but it's unarguably true that such terminology is inappropriate, especially when applied, say, to a slug. Setting aside all the sexist connotations, it simply raises such difficult mental images of female slugs in jewelled hipster pants, gyrating with veils, and then ("Aiiee!") dissolving on contact with salt. The Greater Spear-Nosed Bat also has a harem, but you can forget the marble floors and sherbet in golden chalices. The so-called harem of the sea lion of Patagonia is likewise a laughable affair involving no dancing, since the sea lion is so fat it has never seen its feet.

No, the harem is not the right way to describe these arrangements. And besides, in all these species the females' proficiency in seductive eye-painting is rubbish.

BBC1

5.00am Business Breakfast (98760)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (47736079)
9.10 Kilroy (s) (3041019)
10.00 News (Ceefax) and weather (6166055)
10.05 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (s) (3684166)
10.30 Good Morning with Anne and Nick (s) (63760)
12.00 News (Ceefax) regional news and weather (8456857) **12.05pm Pebble Mill** (s) (5602789) **12.50 Regional News** and weather (64541234)
1.00 One O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (93166)
1.30 Neighbours (Ceefax) (s) (36144741)
1.55 Knots Landing (s) (4367980) **2.40 The Clothes Show** (r) (Ceefax) (s) (2181505) **3.05 Timekeepers** (s) (6671012)
3.30 Postman Pat (r) (3643760) **3.45 Dear Mr Barker** (s) (3648215) **4.00 Alvin and the Chipmunks** (r) (8785215) **4.15 Phantom 2040** (Ceefax) (s) (1727437) **4.35 Grange Hill** (r) (Ceefax) (s) (1080147) **5.00 Newsround** (Ceefax) (3414654)
5.10 Blue Peter (Ceefax) (s) (8872383)
5.35 Neighbours (r) (Ceefax) (s) (737296)
6.00 Six O'Clock News with Martyn Lewis and Moira Stuart. (Ceefax) Weather (505)
6.30 Regional News magazines (857) **WALES: 6.55** Party Political Broadcast by Plaid Cymru (714708)
7.00 Telly Addicts Noel Edmonds hosts a celebrity edition of the trivia quiz. Diane-Louise Jordan, from *Blue Peter*, the impressionist George Marshall and Bob Miles, host of *Win or Lose*, challenge the 1995 *Telly Addicts* champions (Ceefax) (s) (1692)
7.30 Watchdog. Anne Robinson presents the consumers' magazine with Alice Beer and reporters Chris Choi and Jonathan Maitland (Ceefax) (s) (741)
8.00 EastEnders. Gita finds out Sanjay won't be around at Christmas, Pat relents and lets Kathy make a call; Pauline goes to court confident that Arthur will be home in time for Christmas (Ceefax) (s) (7012)
8.30 The Thin Blue Line. Kids Today. Comedy, starring Rowan Atkinson, about life in a police station. Fowler plans a camping trip for young offenders; DI Grim favours giving them a short, sharp shock. (Ceefax) (s) (6147)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News (Ceefax) regional news and weather (7857)



Beatie Edney, Christopher Lambert (9.30pm)

9.30 FILM: Highlander (1986) with Sean Connery, Christopher Lambert, Beatie Edney. Fantasy adventure about time-travelling warriors culminating in a special effects extravaganza. Directed by Russell Mulcahy (Ceefax) (s) (403302)
11.25 FILM: Carry On at Your Convenience (1971) with Sid James, Kenneth Williams, Charles Hawtrey, Joan Sims, Hattie Jacques, Bernard Bresslaw and Kenneth Cope. Trouble is brewing at a lavatory factory as shop steward Vic Spanner finds himself at loggerheads with the management. First of a BBC1 *Carry On Christmas* season. Directed by Gerald Thomas (Ceefax) (106692)
12.50am This Is Michael Bolton. The chart-topping singer, recorded live in concert (r) (s) (7254074)
1.40 Weather (2933513)

BBC2

7.00am Breakfast News (Ceefax) (9960692)
7.15 Lassie (r) (9956499) **7.35 Albert the 5th Musketeer** (Ceefax) (r) (7594437)
8.00 Blue Peter (r) (Ceefax) (s) (2972789) **8.25 Songs of Praise** (r) (Ceefax) (s) (9666857)
9.00 China: The Silent Minority (1/2) (3162012) **9.50 A Week to Remember** (b/w) (3943944) **10.00 Playdays** (s) (4034627)
10.25 FILM: Lady for a Day (1933, b/w) Warren William and Mary Robson in a Damon Runyon fable, directed by Frank Capra (1801031)
11.55 Holiday Outings Costa Blanca (6620234)
12.00 PGH — a Modern Odyssey. A profile of the composer Peggy Glanville-Hicks (31789)
1.00pm William's Wish Wellingtons (26998499) **1.05 Fireman Sam** (48725437)
1.15 International Showjumping (s) (167437)
2.15 FILM: Yes Virginia, There Is a Santa Claus (1991). Sentimental drama starring Charles Bronson and Katharine Isobel. (Ceefax) (s) (772128)
3.55 News (Ceefax) and weather (9451215)
4.00 Today's the Day (r) (470) **4.30 Ready, Steady, Cook** (s) (654) **5.00 Esther.** Workaholics (s) (9470) **5.30 Going Going Gone** (r) (s) (234)
6.00 Space Precinct: The Witness. Futuristic police drama series (Ceefax) (s) (657418)
6.45 CHOICE No Sleep till Sheffield — Pulp Go Public (s) (165944)
7.15 The O-Zone (s) (2414437)
7.30 The Wilderness Years: The Pursuit of Power. The last in the series of programmes charting the history of the Labour Party since 1979 (Ceefax) (s) (33050)



Ruth Mott concocts seasonal recipes (8.30pm)

8.30 CHOICE Ruth Mott's Country Christmas (Ceefax) (s) (4789)
9.00 The X Files: End Game. Science-fiction drama series starring David Duchovny and Gillian Anderson as FBI agents investigating cases of the paranormal (Ceefax) (s) (216334)
9.45 CHOICE The Page Three Story. (Ceefax) (535050)
10.30 Newsnight (Ceefax) (839708)
11.15 Weather (531944). **WALES: 11.15** A Party Political Broadcast by the Plaid Cymru
11.20 FILM: Goin' South (1978) starring Jack Nicholson, Mary Steenburgen, John Belushi and Christopher Lloyd. As horse thief Henry Moon awaits his late on the scaffold, he suddenly discovers he can escape the drop if he marries a local woman. Directed by Jack Nicholson. (Ceefax) (918925). Ends at **1.10am**

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CHOICE

The Page Three Story
BBC2, 9.45pm

Twenty-five years after *The Sun* invented the Page Three girl, the women who took their tops off share their concerns. "I now feel what we did was the beginning of the downward spiral that means sex is used to sell everything" says Nina Carter, an early model. Others admit they were too young to handle the publicity and say their careers and love lives have suffered since. The programme also considers how Page Three has changed, from catwalk model to busty glamour girl. In the 1980s, regulars such as Samantha Fox became famous, but in the 1990s the pool of girls is enormous. But some of them are wondering whether the concept has had its day. "Maybe we could wear clothes now and again", says one heretically.



Pulp's lead singer Jarvis Cocker (BBC2, 6.45pm)

No Sleep till Sheffield — Pulp Go Public
BBC2, 6.45pm

This has been an amazing year for the indie band Pulp. Having been around since the early 1980s, the group suddenly hit the big time, headlining at Glastonbury and producing a bestselling album and two excellent number one singles. This backstage film concentrates on Pulp's recent British tour and the musings of the articulate lead singer Jarvis Cocker. Not an obvious hunk, he is surprised to have become an idol. "I wasn't born attractive so I consider myself something of a self-made man in that respect." His teenage fans insist he sings about them, but Cocker, in his early thirties, says he does not really know what they are up to.

Ruth Mott's Country Christmas
BBC2, 8.30pm

The gardener became a celebrity so why not the cook? Ruth Mott, star of *The Victorian Kitchen*, takes us through her Christmas recipes in this cosy programme filmed in the Berkshire village of Yattendon where she lives. Remarks such as "I usually start mince pies in November" are guaranteed to depress, and the spiced beef recipe, involving marinating a joint over eight days, sounds more trouble than it is worth. But while some of her concoctions are for drooling over rather than making, others are delightfully easy such as the chocolate and chestnut pudding, surprisingly made with tinned chestnuts. We also see Mott as an exemplary villager. Despite the demands of the beef, she finds time to decorate the church and visit the nativity play.

Beastly Christmas: The Turkey Business
Channel 4, 9.00pm

A turkey used to be an expensive treat. Now it is available suspiciously cheaply. This grim special investigates the intensive rearing methods that lie behind the low prices, along the way investigating "Mr Bootiful" himself, Bernard Matthews. Some 35 million turkeys are reared in Britain each year with 65 per cent consumed over the Christmas season. Not only are the birds apparently crammed into dimly-lit barns where they can die of disease, starvation and suffocation, but genetic engineering has meant that turkeys have been turned into creatures so heavy they can hardly stand. With slaughtering techniques also criticised, we are left with the feeling that turkey could become as controversial as veal. **Stephanie Billen**

CARLTON

6.00am GMTV (19741) **9.25 The New Adventures of He-Man** (r) (8501876) **9.50 Batman — The Animated Series** (s) (1182654) **10.20 ITN News** headlines (Teletext) (1770449)
10.30 FILM: A Hobo's Christmas (1987) with Barnard Hughes and Gerald McRaney. With Christmas only a week away, a vagrant decides to visit his only son, Charlie, whom he has not seen for 20 years. Directed by Will Mackenzie (96075126)
12.20pm London Today (Teletext) (8445741)
12.30 ITN Lunchtime News (Teletext) and weather (2210079) **12.55 Home and Away** (Teletext) (2268470) **1.25 Coronation Street** (r) (Teletext) (44384505) **1.55 Shortland Street** (96012166) **2.20 Blue Heelers** (4342383) **3.20 ITN News** headlines (8926789) **3.25 London Today** (Teletext) (8918760)
3.30 FILM: A Message from Holly (1992) with Lindsay Wagner and Shelley Long. When a sculptor with a young daughter discovers she has only six months to live she asks her workaholic friend to raise the child. Directed by Rod Holcomb (366741)
5.10 After 5 with Mary Nightingale (Teletext) (2390760)
5.40 ITN Early Evening News (Teletext) (984578)
5.55 Your Shout. Viewers' opinions (571760)
6.00pm Home and Away (r) (Teletext) (673)
6.30 London Tonight (Teletext) (925)
7.00 Wish You Were Here . . ? Judith Chalmers takes a motoring break in Kent; John Carter visits the outback in Queensland, Australia; Martin Roberts goes white water-rafting on the Coruh River in Turkey (Teletext) (6760)
7.30 Coronation Street. The secret is out and the gossips have a field day as two residents return from holiday (Teletext) (437)



Linda Kozlowski and Paul Hogan (8.00pm)

8.00 FILM: Crocodile Dundee II (1988, PG) with Paul Hogan and Linda Kozlowski. Mick "Crocodile" Dundee wages war against a drugs runner in New York when his reporter girlfriend is kidnapped because she has incriminating film of a drugs-related murder. Directed by John Cornell (Teletext) (s) (5383)
10.00 News at Ten (Teletext) and weather (91673)
10.30 London Tonight (Teletext) (587963)
10.40 The Good Sex Guide Abroad (Teletext) (s) (370654)
11.10 Hunter. Requiem for Sgt McCall (174418)
12.10am Short Story Cinema. A lady of leisure's attachment to her friend's children becomes an obsession (3834987)
12.40 Endsleigh League Extra (7745890)
1.30 Sport AM (34971)
2.30 FILM: Sayonara (1957) with Marlon Brando. A love story set on an American air base in the Far East during the Korean War. Major Lloyd Gruver is driven to desert in order to pursue a beautiful dancer. Directed by Joshua Logan (41406074)
4.55 On the Live Side (r) (s) (26147180)
5.00 The Chrystal Rose Show (r) (s) (45703)
5.30 ITN Morning News (53567) Ends at **6.00**

CHANNEL 4

6.35am Ulysses 31 (r) (1921925)
7.00 The Big Breakfast (83789)
9.00 Saved by the Bell: The New Class (r) (Teletext) (8580383) **9.25 Pugwall** (Teletext) (r) (8583470)
9.55 King Arthur and the Knights of Justice (r) (4238586) **10.20 Kelly** (r) (2139091) **10.50 Ramona** (r) (5941760) **11.20 The Pink Panther** (r) (s) (9424875) **11.45 Dennis** (4573302)
12.00 Crawshaw's Sketching and Drawing Course. (Teletext) (s) (98586)
12.30pm Sesame Street with Robin Williams (1402418) **1.25 Gumdrop** (89255499)
1.50 FILM: Sammy Goes South (1963). With Edward G. Robinson. Fergus McClelland as a ten-year-old who travels from Egypt to South Africa after his parents are killed during the Suez crisis. Directed by Alexander Mackendrick (24852963)
4.00 Think Tank. Team quiz with Mickey Hutton (Teletext) (s) (166)
4.30 Fifteen to One (Teletext) (s) (550)
5.00 Love in the Afternoon. Romantic magazine with Antoine de Caunes, Carolyn Marshall and Maria McErlane (Teletext) (s) (3873)
6.00 The Cosby Show: Mrs Westlake. American comedy. Theo's maths teacher has just set the most difficult test ever, so Cliff invites her to dinner (r) (Teletext) (s) (215)
6.30 Hollyoaks (Teletext) (s) (895)
7.00 Channel 4 News including headlines and weather at **7.30** (Teletext) (587505)
7.55 Beastly Christmas: The X Mas Files A forensic scientist examines Robert Rauschenberg's goat sculpture *Monogram* (Teletext) (650321)



Barbara Lisicki finds humour in life (8.00pm)

8.00 Inside Out: Laugh? I Could've Cried. Disabled comedians Barbara Lisicki, Mandy Colleran, Mandy Redvers Higgins, Ali Briggs and Jag Plah explore the prejudices surrounding disability (Teletext) (3050)
8.30 Porkpie: The Lovely Legs Escort Agency. Ram John Holder as a once-impoverished pensioner who wins the National Lottery (Teletext) (s) (9857)
9.00 CHOICE Beastly Christmas: The Turkey Business (Teletext) (3895)
9.30 Beastly Christmas: 289 Dalmatians (Teletext) (s) (27586)
10.00 The Secret Policeman's Biggest Ball. Peter Cook and Dudley Moore teamed up for their first stage performance in 16 years in this vintage comedy (Teletext) (2460673)
11.05 Slam-O-Rama. Jack Dee turns game show host in the ultimate 1970s trivia quiz. With special guest Jo Brand (r) (s) (799876)
11.40 The American Football Big Match (533988)
12.55am Trans World Sport (r) (3044780)
1.55 FILM: Go Into Your Dance (1935, b/w). Backstage musical with Al Jolson and Ruby Keeler. Directed by Archie Mayo (113884)
3.30 Rawhide (b/w) (9545600) **4.25 Let The Blood Run Free** (s) (90219345). Ends at **4.50**

VARIATIONS

ANGLIA
As London except: 10.30am-12.20 Film: Dragonslayer (96075126) **12.55** Coronation Street (2288470) **1.25** Home and Away (44384505) **1.55-2.20** A Country Practice (98012166) **5.10-5.40** Shortland Street (2390760) **6.30-7.00** Anglia News (925) **10.40** Cover Story (370654) **11.10-11.40** The Good Sex Guide Abroad (940418) **1.25am** Film: Season of Passion (883971) **3.05** Sport AM (7443345) **4.00** Best of British Motorsport (13109) **4.30** ITV Sport Classics (94513) **5.00** Dead Men's Tales (45703)

CENTRAL
As London except: 1.55-2.20 A Country Practice (96012166) **5.10-5.40** Shortland Street (2390760) **6.25-7.00** Central News and Weather (989654) **11.10** Crime Story (174416) **12.10am** Sledge Hammer (3834987) **4.55** Jobfinder (54785890) **5.20** Asian Eye (1749068)

GRANADA
As London except: 12.55-1.25 Shortland Street (2288470) **1.25-1.55** Home and Away (44384505) **1.55** Murder, She Wrote (8801234) **2.50-3.20** Gardeners' Diary (5431302) **3.20** Film: Moon Pilot (366741) **5.10-5.40** A Country Practice (2390760) **6.25-7.00** Granada Tonight (989654) **10.30-10.40** Granada News (587963) **11.10** The Sporting Press (296234) **11.25** Bodies of Evidence (414673) **12.15am-12.40** Coach (6829426)

HTV WEST
As London except: 12.55-1.20 Shortland Street (5512741) **1.20** Coronation Street (44385234) **2.20-3.20** Murder, She Wrote (4342383) **5.10-5.40** 21 Years of Partridge Films (2390760) **6.30-7.00** HTV News (925) **10.40** The West Story (572576) **11.40** Canvas (548234) **12.10am** Spotlight (3834987)

HTV WALES
As HTV WEST except: 10.30-12.15pm Film: A Hobo's Christmas (26990050) **5.10-5.40** The Electric Chair (2390760) **6.30** Wales Tonight (739857) **6.55-7.00** Party Political Broadcast by Plaid Cymru (709876) **10.45** Magnum - The Movie (83351586)

MERIDIAN
As London except: 10.30-12.20 Film: Dragonslayer (96075126) **12.55** Coronation Street (2288470) **1.25** Home and Away (44384505) **1.55-2.20** A Country Practice (96012166) **3.25-3.30** Meridian News and Weather (8918760) **5.10-5.40** Home and Away (2390760) **6.00** Meridian Tonight (673) **6.30-7.00** A Tale of Three Seaside Towns (925) **10.40** Meridian Focus (370654) **11.10** The Pier (204128) **11.35** The Listings (131126) **11.40** The Good Sex Guide Abroad (548234) **12.10am** Good Advice (3834987) **1.25** Film: Season of Passion (883971) **3.05** Sport AM (7443345) **4.00** Best of British Motorsport (13109) **4.30** ITV Sport Classics (94513) **5.00** Freescreen (45703)

WESTCOUNTRY
As London except: 10.30-12.20 Film: Decoraton Day (96075126) **12.55** Coronation Street (2288470) **1.25** Home and Away (44384505) **1.55** High Road (36154129) **2.25-3.20** Gardeners' Diary (19978166) **5.10-5.40** A Country Practice (5431302) **5.10-5.40** Home and Away (2390760) **6.00-7.00** Westcountry Live (24499) **11.10** Film: Frankenstein Unbound (123234)

YORKSHIRE
As London except: 10.30-12.20 Film: Dragonslayer (96075126) **12.55** Coronation Street (2288470) **1.25** Home and Away (44384505) **1.55** A Country Practice (96012166) **2.20** An Invitation to Remember (16960147) **2.50** Help Yourself (3716708) **2.55-3.20** Shortland Street (2166296) **5.10-5.40** Home and Away (2390760) **5.55** Calendar (283857) **6.30-7.00** The Dales Diary (925) **10.40** Who Do You Do? (370654) **11.10** Prisoner Cell Block H (454166) **11.10** Prisoner Cell Block H (454166) **12.05am** Short Story Cinema (3054819) **1.25** Film: The Silent Woman (239616) **3.00** The New Music (20722) **4.00** On the Live Side (90218618) **4.20** Jobfinder (5697068)

S4C
Starts: 7.00 The Big Breakfast (83789) **9.00** Saved By The Bell (8580383) **9.25** Pugwall (8583470) **9.55** King Arthur And The Knights Of Justice (4238586) **10.20** Kelly (2139091) **10.50** Ramona (9809944) **11.10** The Pink Panther (2393865) **11.45** Right To Reply (9392383) **12.20pm** Katie And Orbie (5247944) **12.50** Slot Methrin (2287741) **1.20** Crawshaw's Sketching And Drawing Course (44383876) **1.50** Film: Sammy Going South (24852963) **4.00** Think Tank (166) **4.30** Simply The Best: Game In Scotland (550) **5.00** 5 Pump: Rowind A Rowing (3430682) **5.10** 5 Pump: Flail (3438876) **5.20** 5 Pump: Tochabant (6521079) **5.30** Fifteen To One (302) **6.00** Newyddion (308302) **6.15** Heno (6193893) **7.00** Pobol Y Cwm (956857) **7.25** Y Byd Ar Bedwar (288857) **8.00** Fo A Fe Ar Fore dydd Nadolig (3050) **8.30** Darllediad Gwiedyddol Gan Blaid (595215) **9.35** Newyddion (781925) **9.05** High Interest. All You Need Is Cash (639234) **10.05** Sgoro (2489944) **11.10** Frasier: Agents In America (931760) **11.40** The American Football Big Match (533988) **12.55am** The Turkey Business (9874093) **1.20** Porkpie (9434600) **1.50** Inside Out: Laugh? I Could Have Died (2071987)

SATELLITE

● **For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the *Vision* supplement, published Saturday**

SKY ONE
7.00am DJ Kat (33352) **8.00** Power Rangers (46505) **8.30** *Press Your Luck* (47876) **8.50** Court TV (38128) **9.30** Oprah Winfrey (47166) **10.30** Concentration (270121) **11.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (35166) **12.00** Jeopardy (41692) **12.30pm** Murphy Brown (58470) **1.00** The Waltons (53925) **2.00** Geraldo (79012) **3.00** Court TV (9488) **3.30** Oprah (8402673) **4.20** Power Rangers (3565418) **4.45** Ivpper Trapper (5641437) **5.00** Star Trek: The Next Generation (3079) **6.00** The Simpsons (1963) **6.30** Jeopardy (2215) **7.00** LAPD (4708) **7.30** M*A*S*H (8499) **8.00** Saturday Sunday (5988) **8.30** Revelations (2963) **9.00** Police Rescue (96654) **10.00** Star Trek: The Next Generation (99741) **11.00** Law and Order (18031) **12.00** David Lasterman (8931971) **12.45am** The Untouchables (6459722) **1.30** Rachel Gunn (85384) **2.00-6.00** Hit Mix (7881513)

SKY NEWS
News on the hour.
6.00am Sunrise (11935147) **10.10** CBS 60 Minutes (81104586) **1.30pm** CBS News (92019) **2.30** Parliament (192741) **5.00** Live at Five (10031) **6.30** Tonight (8729708) **8.10** CBS 60 Minutes (72875437) **11.30** CBS News (81166) **12.30am** ABC News (74831) **1.30** Tonight with Adam Boulton (4378105) **2.10** CBS 60 Minutes (5196884) **3.30** Parliament (37161) **4.30** CBS News (83703) **5.30-6.00** ABC News (95567)

SKY MOVIES
6.00am Showcase (28673) **8.00 Kiss Me Kate** (1953) (93692) **10.00 Season of Change** (1994) (69588) **12.00 Sky Riders** (1976) (83215) **2.00pm Bloomfield** (1969) (13321) **4.00 Mosquito Squadron** (1969) (93983) **5.00 Season of Change** (1994) (72234) **7.30 Close Up: Naked Gun 33 1/3** (8895) **8.00 Choices of the Heart: The Margaret Sanger Story** (1994) (44942) **10.00 Serial Mom** (1994) (109215) **11.35 Deadly Invasion: The Killer Bee Nightmare** (1994) (355031) **1.05am In the Line of Duty: Kidnapped** (1994) (9188548) **2.35 The Vernon Johns Story** (1994) (4083987) **4.05-6.00 Real Men** (1987) (852432)

SKY MOVIES GOLD
4.00pm Pride and Prejudice (1940) (7215) **6.00 Blue Skies** (1946) (99789) **8.00 Rocky** (1976) (94234) **10.00 Full Metal Jacket** (1987) (61418) **12.00 Vixen** (1968) (4045703) **1.15-3.05am The Leopard** (1963) (82992987)

THE MOVIE CHANNEL
6.00am Operation Mad Ball (1957) (26215) **8.00 Tales of Washington Irving** (1992) (38079) **9.00 Swiss Family Robinson** (1973) (88895) **10.00 Spider-Man** (1977) (671281) **12.00 Groundhog Day** (1993) (81857) **2.00pm Quebec** (1951) (11963) **4.00 The Jetsons Meet the Flintstones** (1987) (6935) **6.00 Groundhog Day** (1993) (94429) **8.00 Assault at West Point: The Court-Martial of Johnson Whittaker** (1994) (44924) **10.00 Smpdragon** (1993) (8678342) **11.45 Pookie: Target Ill** (1998) (435437) **1.25am Blueberry Hill** (1987) (9514451) **3.00-5.00 Victim of Rage** (1994) (4341258)

THE DISNEY CHANNEL
Sky Movies Gold from 10pm to 4am.
6.00am Under the Umbrella Tree (45357857) **6.30** Muppet Babies (33369296) **7.00** New Winnie the Pooh (36122654) **7.30** Ducktales (36141789) **8.00** Chip 'n' Dale (29504586) **8.30** Adventures in Wonderland (29503857) **9.00** Fraggle Rock (29527437) **9.30** Welcome to Pooh Corner (63335741) **10.00** Dumbo's Circus (33383876) **10.30** Quack Attack (29516321) **11.00** Walt Disney Presents (38150437) **12.00** FILM: The One and Only, Genuine Original Family Band (33363012) **2.00pm** Adventures In Wonderland (70170147) **2.30** Umbrella Tree (62168505) **3.00** Fraggle Rock (70159654) **3.30** Winnie the Pooh (62163050) **4.00** Quack Attack (62159857) **4.30** Ducktales (62148741) **5.00** Chip 'n' Dale (70161499) **5.30** Danger Bay (62162321) **6.00** Tarzan (62169234) **6.30** Dinosaura (62150586) **7.00** Boy Meets World (70174963) **7.30** Thunder Alley (62149470) **8.00-10.00** FILM: Flight for Freedom (58212857)

EUROSPORT
7.30am Golf (33586) **8.30** Alpine Skiing (34147) **10.00** Ski Jumping (51128) **11.00** Boxing (64882) **12.00** Triathlon (79673) **1.30pm** Bobsleigh (31031) **2.30** Snooker (73321) **4.30** Speedworld (14383) **6.30** News (6429) **7.00** Equestrianism (56873) **9.00** Boxing (57789) **11.00** Eurogolf (32857) **12.00-12.30am** News (38242)

SKY SPORTS
7.00am Racing News (41741) **7.30** Cricket: South Africa v England (4791789) **3.30** The Big League (49147) **5.30** Snowboard Tour (7166) **6.00** Sports Centre (4079) **6.30** Tartan Extra (8031) **7.00** Football: Manchester City v Nottingham Forest (97788505) **10.15** Sports Centre (135296) **10.30** Cricket: third Test (53944) **12.30am** Football: Manchester City v Nottingham Forest (54813) **2.30-3.00** Sports Centre (81345)

SKY SPORTS GOLD
10.00pm Cricket Hall of Fame (2916031) **10.30** Bobby Charlton's Football Scrapbook (4658995) **12.00-1.00am** British Open Golf Film (7183154)

THE HISTORY CHANNEL
4.00pm D-Day (1233895) **5.00** Knights and Armour (4221165) **6.00-7.00** Biography: Patton (2203708)

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL
7.00pm Mysteries, Magic and Miracles (4222695) **7.30** Ray Bradbury Theatre (2975215) **8.00** FILM: Invaders from Mars (8322654) **9.30-10.00** The Making of Species **1.00pm** Mysteries, Magic and Miracles (1332277) **1.30** Ray Bradbury (6654074) **2.00** FILM: Invaders from Mars (3865635) **3.30-4.00** Hitchcock Presents (7065345)

TLC
9.00am Martha Stewart (9052895) **9.30** Crafwise (1978676) **10.00** Simply Delicious (6239676) **10.30** Crafwise (9058079) **11.00** Wild at Heart (1948147) **11.30** Toycraft (1949876) **12.00** Martha Stewart (9032031) **12.30pm** Crafwise (1972692) **1.00** High Days (1578963) **1.30** Crafwise (1971963) **2.00** Toycraft (7946470) **2.30** Crafwise (8592050) **3.00** Delicious (7965505) **3.30-4.00** Crafwise (8504895)

UK GOLD
7.00am Angels (1571050) **7.30** Neighbours (1567857) **8.00** Sons and Daughters (9031302) **8.30** EastEnders (9030673) **9.00** The Bill (9021925) **9.30** The Sullivans (1970234) **10.00** Secret Army (1556741) **11.00** Dallas (1576505) **12.00** Sons and Daughters (9041789) **12.30pm** Neighbours (1974050) **1.00** EastEnders (1570321) **1.30** The Bill (1973321) **2.00** The Sullivans (39440483) **2.25** Are You Being Served? (3061505) **3.00** Angels (7967963) **3.30** Eldorado (8573925) **4.00** Miss Marple (95808654) **5.05** Larry Grayson's Generation Game (41125944) **6.15** Kenny's Comic Cuts (63577601) **6.25** EastEnders (2917708) **7.00** Eldorado (7959944) **7.30** Taxi (8582673) **8.00** George and Mildred (7968692) **8.30** Alas Smith and Jones (7954499) **9.00** Porridge (5316708) **10.00** The Bill (61573211) **10.35** The Best of Top of the Pops (95401418) **11.50** Lenny Henry (9325499) **12.25am** Dr Who (21028368) **12.55** FILM: The Seventh Victim (95489797) **2.05** Shopping

TCC
6.00am Animated Showcase (2297401) **6.45** Tiny (1707031) **7.00** Barney (52050) **7.30** Happily Ever After (88857) **8.00** Eartheworm Jim (19892) **8.30** Eek the Cat (18963) **9.00** Garfield (814651) **9.30** Where's Wally? (34499) **10.00** Skeleton Warriors (63050) **10.30** Battletech (81429) **11.00** AJ's Time Travellers (63876) **11.30** The Babysitters' Club (64505) **12.00** Art Attack (2874809) **12.15pm** Dish of the Day (4242418) **12.30** No Naked Flames (38215) **1.00** Heartbreak (26470) **2.00** The Tick (9186) **2.30** Ready or Not (7708) **3.00** Sweet Valley (9673) **3.30** Hang Time (9925) **4.00** California (1780) **4.30-5.00** Madison (7944)

NICKELODEON
6.00am Blue, Child of the Earth (13505) **6.30** Count Duckula (29031) **7.00** Bafink (1564302) **7.05** Hero Turtles (3595741) **7.45** Rugrats (8134618) **8.15** Doug (7189402) **8.45** Rocko (5300321) **9.00** Alvin (61031) **9.30** Pee-Wee (96215) **10.00** Banana Sandwich (57302) **11.00** Children's BBC (77166) **12.00** Rocko (61895) **12.30pm** Aaahh!!! Real Monsters (90031) **1.00** Ship to Shore (48654) **1.30** Mighty Max (99302) **2.00** Speed Racer (7050) **2.30** Galaxy High School (4692) **3.00** Count Duckula (3857) **3.30** Littlest Pet Shop (6437) **4.00** Hero Turtles (5944) **4.30** Rugrats (1128) **5.00** Clarissa (6307) **5.30** Wishbone (5708) **6.00** Doug (5321) **6.30** Are You Afraid of the Dark? (6673) **7.00** Ferris Bueller (8166) **7.30-8.00** Sister Sister (2857)

DISCOVERY
4.00pm Driving Passions (8583302) **4.30** Voyager (8589586) **5.00** Lonely Planet (7956857) **6.00** Invention (8500079) **6.30** Beyond 2000 (1428857) **7.30** Frontline (8580215) **8.00** Visitors from Space (5345586) **8.00** Arthur C Clarke (1928383) **9.30** Mysterious Forces (1969128) **10.00** ET Phone Home (5317437) **11.00** Mysteries and Miracles (1930128) **11.30-12.00** Future Quest (6228760)

BRAVO
12.00 FILM: Top Secret (6246168) **2.00pm** The Saint (6227031) **3.00** Scotland Yard (7952031) **3.30** Man from Interpol (8591321) **4.00** FILM: Brighton Rock With Richard Attenborough and Hermione Baddeley (7963147) **6.00** Death Valley Days (8597505) **6.30** The Critic (8588857) **7.00** The Critic (7344012) **7.30** The Protectors (8577741) **8.00** The Saint (5381012) **9.00** Jason King (5301876) **10.00-12.00** FILM: A Nymphoid Barbarian in Dinosaur Hell (1946789)

UK LIVING
6.00am Agony Hour (7310963) **7.00** Living Magazine (6108505) **9.00** Go For It (2093760) **9.30** Kate and Allie (5196012) **10.00** Hearts of Gold (1700050) **10.50** Entertainment Now! (59213215) **11.00** The Young and the Restless (3971128) **11.55** The Food and Drink Christmas Quiz (6017780) **12.30pm** Brookside (5549050) **1.05** Kil

WAGE AWARDS 37

CBI FINDS RISES IN FACTORY PAY OUTPACE INFLATION

BUSINESS

SEASONAL TALE 38

GRAHAM SEARJEANT ON A MODERN PUZZLE FOR SCROOGE

MONDAY DECEMBER 18 1995

BUSINESS EDITOR LINDSAY COOK

Railtrack pledges £10bn overhaul for network over ten years

BY JONATHAN PRYNN
TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

RAILTRACK has unveiled a ten-year programme of renewal for Britain's ageing railway infrastructure, aimed at reversing half a century of under-investment and neglect of the railways by their government owner.

The ambitious plan involves investment of more than £1 billion a year until 2004, around double the previous rate of spending when the British Rail purse strings were controlled directly by the Treasury.

The proposals represent the biggest change in railway planning since the nationalisation of BR in 1948. Constantly at the mercy of the annual public spending round, BR had rarely been able to plan more than two or three years ahead, Railtrack said yesterday.

The £10 billion plan to overhaul Victorian railway infrastructure and prepare it for the next century was outlined in Railtrack's network management statement. It follows an 18-month stocktake of the infrastructure, which includes 10,000 miles of track, 90,000 bridges, 1,000 tunnels and 2,500 stations.

The announcement came as anger grew on the Tory backbenches at the lack of progress in the sell-off. Seven senior MPs are to demand action in a meeting with Sir George Young, Transport Secretary, tomorrow amid calls for the complex privatisation to be shelved.

Railtrack, which was formed in April last year when it was cleaved from British Rail, is due to be sold through a stock market flotation in the spring, raising up to £2 billion.

The investment programme concentrates on upgrading track and signals but will touch every aspect of infrastructure. By 2004, Railtrack has pledged to replace almost 3,000 miles of rail sleepers, nearly 3,500 miles of track ballast and 1,400 of rails, and to renew more than 900 bridges. The programme also provides for the long-awaited upgrading of the West Coast mainline, Britain's most important but notoriously unreliable line, at a cost of about £1 billion.

Improvements will be mainly funded by the 30 passenger freight operation companies paying access charges to Railtrack which have been set for the next five years. In return, the train companies are entitled to huge compensation payments if track or signal failures force delays in services. Railtrack is so alarmed by the scale of the penalties it will have to pay that it is negotiating with John Swift, the rail regulator, the right to levy supplementary access charges.

The Railtrack document was published as the Government prepared to reveal tomorrow the first three winners of passenger train franchises. They are expected to be management and employee buy-outs for LTS Rail and Great Western, while Stagecoach, the bus company, is thought to have picked up South West trains. However, the announcement will be overshadowed by Friday's defeat for Roger Salmon, the director of franchising, in the Court of Appeal after a challenge from the Save Our Railways group. Mr Salmon is expected to launch an appeal in the Lords today against the ruling which said that the next tranche of four franchises were being sold illegally because they gave operators the freedom to make deep cuts in services.

BP close to $3.5bn Algerian gas deal

BY CARL MORTISHED

BP is on the verge of agreeing a multibillion dollar investment to produce gas in Algeria for export to Europe. It will shortly sign a contract with Sonatrach, the Algerian state oil company, to develop a huge gasfield in the remote southwest of the troubled North African state.

The production and marketing joint venture will cost $3.5 billion, including the drilling of 100 wells in the licence area, known as In Salah, within a region deep in the Sahara designated district 3.

A pipeline will be built from In Salah to Hassi R'Mel,where another pipeline will transport Algerian gas through Morocco, across the Strait of Gibraltar and into Spain. Under the terms of the deal, BP will fund 65 per cent of the investment. It expects to earn 30 per cent of the net profit from the export of 10 billion cubic metres per year of gas into the energy-hungry economies of Southern Europe. That compares with BP's current annual production of 13 billion cubic metres.

An initial exploration phase costing $100 million will last two-and-a-half years. There are seven known gasfields in the 25,000 square kilometre licence area and BP will drill five appraisal wells and conduct three-dimensional seismic surveys.

The second phase involves the $1 billion construction of a 520-kilometre pipeline. First gas exports are expected by 2002 via the existing Transmed pipeline to Italy and the Maghreb pipeline to Spain.

Algeria is reckoned to possess the eighth largest reserves of gas in the world, totalling 128 trillion cubic feet, and the total reserves at In Salah could be ten trillion cubic feet.

However, BP's involvement in the country is not without risk. Armed Islamic opposition groups have been fighting the Government since abortive elections in 1992.

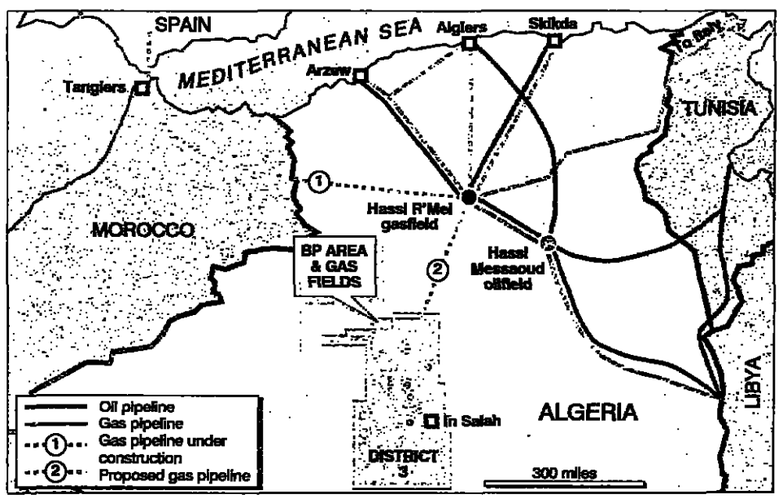
The Government scrapped the poll when it became clear that the Islamic Salvation Front was likely to win. Since then, 40,000 people have died in the conflict and rebel groups have targeted foreigners, with two European pipeline workers being murdered in October last year.

About 50 people will staff the In Salah project, which has its own airstrip, allowing oil workers to fly from London to the desert oilfields avoiding the troubled areas in the north of the country. The Islamist opposition has largely ignored the oil installations in the south of the country, recognising the importance of hydrocarbon exports that account for 95 per cent of Algeria's foreign earnings.

Foreign oil companies include Agip, the Italian group, which is involved in the huge Hassi Messaoud oilfield, and Lasmo, the British company, which recently announced a major discovery. In April, the Government sealed off four vast areas of the desert and brought in more troops to protect the installations.

Algerian gas will give a big boost to BP's ambitions in the European gas market. The company is mainly an oil producer at present, with gas accounting for only 15 per cent of its hydrocarbon production.

Gas demand in the Southern European economies is expected to soar from 80 to 100 billion cubic metres per year over the next five to ten years, with demand in Spain forecast to triple in ten years. Other projects aimed at satisfying the growth are the Interconnector linking Britain to the Continent and Shell's liquefied natural gas project in Nigeria.




Sir Alan Cockshaw, chairman of Amec, relaxes at his London home at the weekend

Amec fate rests with PDFM stake

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY

THE fate of Amec, the UK construction company, will be decided by noon today as the £360 million offer for the company from Kvaerner, the Norwegian engineering company, reaches a tense close.

The result is unusually hard to predict because of the large number of small holdings in the company, with about 20 per cent of shares owned by small private investors. Among institutional investors PDFM, with a 14 per cent interest, could hold the key.

Kvaerner already owns a 26.1 per cent stake in the company, but needs to win 54 per cent of the ordinary shares because of the voting structure of the preference shares.

Amec, under the chairmanship of Sir Alan Cockshaw, pins its hopes on persuading shareholders that it is on the brink of recovery and Kvaerner's offer therefore severely undervalues the company. Amec believes that shareholders cannot lose by resisting Kvaerner's 100p-a-share offer because Kvaerner's long-term commitment to the sector makes it likely that it will return for another bid in a year, by which stage an improved performance from Amec would need to be included in the price.

Kvaerner believes that shareholders will be persuaded by the offer of guaranteed cash rather than trusting a board with a poor record of meeting forecasts. Kvaerner has threatened it might sell its Amec shares should the bid fail, an action that would undermine the share price.

Irish to meet Eggar over UK veto on steel rescue

FROM EILEEN MCCABE IN DUBLIN

A CROSS-PARTY delegation of Irish politicians is to hold talks with Tim Eggar, the Industry Minister, in London today in a effort to break the deadlock over a rescue package for Irish Steel.

The move follows the failure of Irish and British officials to reach agreement over the future of Ireland's only steel plant after negotiations in Dublin over the weekend.

At issue is the UK Government's decision to veto an Irish plan to save almost 350 jobs at the Haulbowline, County Cork, steel plant in the southwest of the country. Because the deal with ISPAT International, an Indian corporation, involves government aid, it requires unanimous EU approval.

After months of wrangling, the Irish and British Prime Ministers discussed the issue at the Madrid summit last week and ordered their officials to renew efforts to resolve the dispute.

Under the rescue package, signed in September, the Irish Government agreed to write off loans of IrE17 million to the Cork plant and to inject a further IrE10.5 million into the company. ISPAT International promised to invest IrE30 million over the next five years and to take on IrE22 million of Irish Steel debt.

When the deal was presented in Brussels, Britain, along with Luxembourg and Denmark, objected. According to Irish officials, the objections of the latter two arose from minor, technical details that were quickly ironed out.

The British objections proved much more difficult to resolve, and after several stormy negotiating sessions in Brussels and London, it became clear that an easy resolution was not in the offing. Irish officials angrily rejected claims by the British negotiators that the package posed a threat to the British Steel plant at Shelton, which produces a similar product to the Cork plant.

Dublin maintains that even increased production in Cork of 35,000 tonnes annually would not affect Shelton's output of 400,000 tonnes.

If the issue is not resolved, it will top the agenda of an EU Industry Council meeting in Brussels on Wednesday. Irish officials concede that Britain may continue to use its veto, but they are hoping the combined pressure of the rest of the EU will will change that.

As one Dublin source put it: "There are already mutterings in dark corridors in Brussels about what will happen when Britain wants approval for some of its packages."

IoD attacks accountants' Jersey plan

The Institute of Directors (IoD) has expressed concern at plans by Britain's major accountancy firms to relocate to Jersey to register as partnerships with limited liability.

Tim Melville-Ross, head of the IOD, said: "I think it would give an unfortunate impression ... The perception could well be that this is a desire to escape liability."

Bryan buyout

Managers of Bryan Contract Hire of Bristol, which has 9,500 vehicles, have acquired the business from its parent company, Bryan Brothers Group, for £140 million.

Geest takeover

Noboa, the Ecuador group that sells bananas under the Bonita brand name, is close to securing agreement for the acquisition of Geest's banana business for around £85 million, it was confirmed yesterday.

No Christmas peace for one 'fat cat'

BY CARL MORTISHED

CEDRIC BROWN'S hopes for a peaceful and relaxing Christmas after a year of controversy over his huge salary increase were shattered yesterday when his enhanced pension arrangements, said to be worth up to £3.4 million, became the target of a renewed attack on excessive executive remuneration.

Earlier this year, the chief executive of British Gas, who now earns £475,000 a year after a 75 per cent salary rise, sanctioned the cancellation of the annual Christmas party for the company's retired staff, some of whom are said to be surviving on £100 a week. Now, British Gas pensioners have been given the opportunity to consider the merits of Mr Brown's own pension arrangements.


Brown: under attack

Mr Brown was named among leading directors of privatised companies whose pensions have been enhanced by almost £16 million because of recent salary increases.

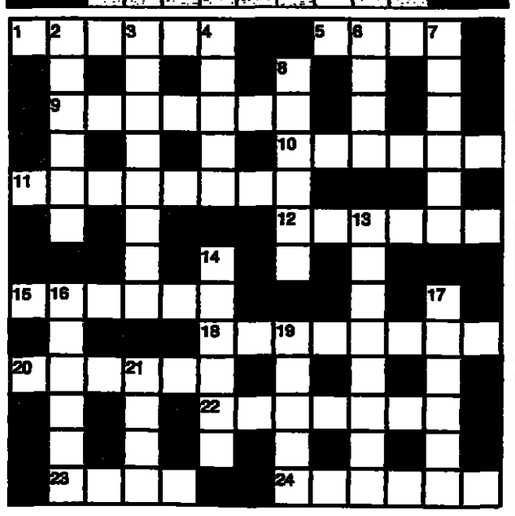
The "fat cats" named yesterday included Ed Wallis, of Powergen, and John Baker, of National Power, but the hapless Mr Brown, was accused of gaining the most costly pension increase. British Gas will have to pay an extra £1.95 million to top up his pension, it is claimed, making a total pension of £3.4 million.

British Gas pays a pension contribution of 4 per cent of salary to its staff, including Mr Brown, and the employee contributes a further 4 per cent. To bring his pension fund up to a level sufficient to pay out benefits worth two-thirds of his increased salary requires additional payments. These have been estimated to be £1.9 million by Lane Clark and Peacock, the pensions consultant.

TBritish Gas questioned the accuracy of the estimates. It admitted that Mr Brown's pay rise would entail a significant increase in the contribution to his pension.

However, a spokesman said that the company did not agree with the assumptions underlying the forecast. "There is no agreed way of valuing pension benefits," he said.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 655

ACROSS

1 One killed for faith (6)
5 Harsh, cruel (4)
9 Any part of face; main film (7)
10 Nullify (6)
11 Ardent, emphatic (8)
12 Widespread protest (6)
15 Shape-changing protozoon (6)
18 Dramatically posed scenes (8)
20 Greatest amount, extent (6)
22 Serious; a pledge (7)
23 Ceremony (4)
24 African journey (6)

DOWN

2 Cake-burning king (6)
3 Cross (eg mountain face) (8)
4 Stir up (5)
6 Circus arena (4)
7 Cannon; cement mixture (6)
8 Trusted adviser (6)
13 Unable to distinguish mus. pitches (4-4)
14 Be important; substance (6)
16 Speak indistinctly (6)
17 Assemble (people) for duty (6)
19 Scot. streams, poet (5)
21 Displace from post (4)

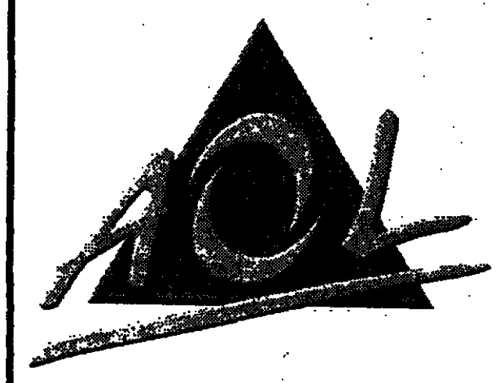
SOLUTION TO No 654

ACROSS: 1 Reliable 5 Abel 9 Run rings round 10 Pert 11 Obtrude 13 Legacy 15 Swathe 18 George I 20 Lick 23 Happy Families 24 Poem 25 Sob story
DOWN: 1 Rare 2 Lunge 3 Asiatic 4 Lagoon 6 Bouquet 7 Laddered 8 Trot 12 Flagship 14 Groupie 16 Wellies 17 Figaro 19 Goya 21 Cairo 22 I say

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